FBIS DAILY REPORT

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SELA PROPOSAL ON LATIN AMERICAN FOREIGN DEBT

FL222148 Bridgetown CANA in English 2034 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, March 22 (CANA) -- Following is an offical summary of a paper presented by SELA's permanent secretary, Ambassador Sebastian Alegrett, here today on proposals for resolving Latin America's external debt problem. The paper was presented at a meeting of Spanish and Latin American Central Bank governors at the Trinidad Hilton.

To guarantee their economic growth and assure their future development, the Latin American countries should allocate a percentage of about 20 percent of their export earnings for the servicing of their external debt. At the same time, the term for the payment of the total debt should not be less than 15 years, with a grace period of about seven years and ample guarantees of the payment of the debt for the international creditors.

This proposal by the Permanent Secretariat of the Latin American Economic System (SELA) is in line with the requirements of the Declaration and Plan of Action of Quito adopted at the Latin American Economic Conference held in January. The formula is based on the imperative for the Latin American countries, in the process of renegotiating the debt amounting to some 350,000 million U.S. dollars, to obtain terms which are compatible with the restoration of economic growth, as only in this way will it be possible to guarantee continuity in debt service and the full repayment of the debt contracted. In that regard, the SELA Permanent Secretariat's proposal emphasises the need to reduce the interest rates on the debt, the payment of which has been transforming the region into a net capital exporter towards the industrialised world in recent years.

CEPAL's studies show that in the 1982-3 period, Latin America made a net transfer of resources amounting to approximately 49,000 million U.S. dollars.

The Permanent Secretariat of the regional forum points out that international commercial banks should be offered the sure possibility of recovering the amount invested based on partial payment guarantees as an incentive to offer interest rate reductions, as it is with these banks that the largest volume of credits has been contracted and on most onerous terms for the debtor countries. These payment guarantees could be assumed by some existing multilateral body, such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank, or the Inter-American Development Bank. The international body chosen will further guarantee payment both of a minimum interest rate, as well as the principal of the rescheduled debt.

At the same time, important economic and political reasons dictate that the region discontinue the chain of renegotiations which have taken place in recent years, above all when it is considered that the periodic individual renegotiations by the Latin American countries represent an extremely high cost resulting from the payment of fees and other charges.

Furthermore, the Permanent Secretariat of the system believes that the total existing external debt should be restructured in such a way as to obtain, in the first place, a grace period long enough to allow for the recovery and consolidation of the region's economic growth before the start of amortisation payments and, in the second, the pace of amortisation should be gradual so that maturity will be sufficiently long to make new debt restructurings unnecessary.

Proposals therefore suggest a total term of 15 years for commercial bank debts, with amortisation starting in the seventh year.

Further, it is maintained that the interest to be paid on debt obligations must be determined in accordance with the debtor countries' ability to pay and not by contracting in advance an interest rate, be it fixed or variable. Each country in the region would therefore agree to allocate a portion of its export income to debt servicing and would divide that portion among the three classes of creditors, pro-rated to outstanding debt.

The interest rates agreed on initially would set a maximum rate, but if the debt service does not reach those levels, the difference would not be paid.

Creditor governments should accept this potential interest loss as part of a concerted effort to restore the rate of the world economic development and Latin America's economic recovery and as part of the responsibility that they must assume in the search for solutions to the present crisis.

The concern is also shared by the former United States secretary of state, Henry Kissinger, who in the report on Central America presented by the commission bearing his name, stressed that "the United States of America and the governments of the other creditor countries should urge private lenders, especially the commercial banks, to renegotiate current debts at the lowest possible interest rate.

Since the debt service would be related to each country's real payment capacity, the amount paid will vary for each country.

In this context, a formula was sought to determine debt service based on the debtor countries' terms of trade and export income. This will provide an incentive to the country to improve its trade balance while protecting it against slumps in world trade or in export commodity prices, since debt service will be linked to export income.

"Similarly, if world trade and commodity prices increase, then debt service payments will also increase.

By means of exhaustive studies, analyses, and computerised simulation exercises, a rate of 20 per cent of Latin American export income was arrived at (representing the regional average for debt service over several decades)...."

This "historical" percentage will allow for continued normal economic growth and should be adjusted, with a margin of five per cent more or less, to the ups and downs characterising trade between Latin America and the rest of the world.

To sum up, the formula would operate as follows:

Debt service would be applied first to interest, up to the initially contracted levels as a maximum which, in the case of debts owed to private banks, would be at prevailing market rates. There would be no capitalisation or cumulation of unpaid interest if debt service does not reach the contracted level, but if debt service exceeds contracted interest levels, the excess would then be used to repay principal. By maintaining debt service at affordable levels, the chances of growth resuming are enhanced.

The proposal will shortly be presented to the governments of Latin America and the Caribbean, the different international organisations, and will be communicated to the governments and financial instituti ns of the developed countries."

ALFONSIN 'PROPOSAL' EXPECTED IN 23 MARCH ADDRESS

PY221952 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1530 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 22 Mar (NA) -- President Raul Alfonsin will tomorrow present a "clear political proposal" to all forces of the nation in a message he will give from the balcony of Government House during the rally to be staged on Plaza de Mayo. This report was released today by government sources, who stated that the presidential message "will go beyond" a mere call for an agreement necessary to overcome the crisis that is adversely affecting the country.

The sources stated that the president dedicated a good part of the day yesterday preparing the "draft copy" of the message he will address to the crowd at Plaza de Mayo. The message, which will be delivered by the president at approximately 1900 [2200 GMT], will be broadcast by Radio Nacional and will be available to all those stations that want to broadcast it.

Regarding the content of the presidential speech, the sources admitted that it will include a "clear political proposal" which will evidently involve a call to all forces of the country to unite in overcoming the crisis.

Asked whether the president will make some self-criticisms tomorrow on the first 100 days of his government, the sources stated that the president will present "some proposals" rather than admitting errors. The presentation of projects and plans for the future will reportedly also be included in the "overall" concept of the "proposal" which Alfonsin will make from the balcony of Government House.

The sources denied that the president could refer to the creation of an alleged "council for the reconstruction of the fatherland" which would be made up of the largest political parties and headed by Alfonsin himself. The sources stated that there is "absolutely nothing" to this and that this subject has not been discussed within the government, and so they minimized the importance of the report published by a morning newspaper today.

ALFONSIN TO MEET PARTY LEADERS, SEEK 'AGREEMENT'

PY222125 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 22 Mar 84 p 11

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- Interior Minister Antonio Troccoli yesterday announced that President Raul Alfonsin would be meeting the leaders of other parties with a particular view to achieving "basic agreement" on issues affecting Argentina's relations with other countries. The foreign debt, the Beagle Channel dispute, and the Malvinas question were described as the main such issues. In connection with the latter problem, Troccoli announced that the public holiday to mark Malvinas sovereignty claims would be transferred from April 2 to June 10, the date specified in a 1975 law. Troccoli also told journalists that he himself will be laying the groundwork for these meetings in the next few days. He emphasized that the government would be open to any suggestions. Troccoli even suggested that Alfonsin might visit other party leaders rather than they him by saying that each party was free to choose the time and place of the meeting. He also said that the president might meet elected representatives rather than the leaders in the case of some parties.

On the domestic front, Troccoli said that incomes policy and government spending cuts were the main areas in which the Radical administration would seek the support of other parties. He told reporters that reforms of the financial system were already in progress especially differential encashment requirements for provincial banks.

Troccoli also proposed a new system of federal revenue-sharing with more employers' contributions and federal grants as a reward for provinces which hold down their spending and increase their revenue. Alfonsin is to meet all the governors on April 17, Troccoli announced yesterday.

The Radical minister repeated his denial that there were political prisoners in Argentina. He pointed out that there were 107 persons "mistakenly called political prisoners" who had been sentenced for terrorist crimes by civilian or military courts whereas "political prisoners" in the normal sense of the term are held without trial.

Meanwhile the youth organizations of eight parties, including both Radicals and Peronists, announced plans to demonstrate near the Obelisk at 5pm on April 2 and afterwards "symbolically" take the English Tower [Torre de Los Ingleses . One of the eight groups, Centrist Youth, yesterday condemned the decision to end the April 2 holidav, saying that the government was "turning its back on the Latin American peoples who suffered with us, despising the blood shed by our heroes and (thus causing) another triumph for imperialism."

TRADE SECRETARY REVEALS ACCORDS WITH GDR, CUBA

PY220250 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 21 Mar 84 p 18

[Text] Argentine Trade Secretary Ricardo Campero yesterday held a press conference to discuss the results of his trade mission to the GDR, Cuba, and Mexico. The press conference was held after a meeting with the Foreign Trade Advisory Council which was attended by government officials, businessmen, and representatives of the organizations which participated in the Argentine mission.

Campero told the journalists that with the GDR he signed an act of understanding based on the principle of commerical reciprocity. However, it includes the novelty that Argentina is offering "products which are not traditional, like grains," but rather a diversified list of primary products which include regional goods. He added that with regard to imports, GDR technological cooperation was mentioned in connection with certain Argentine transportation projects and the supply of fertilizers.

The official stressed that the Argentine Government is seeking to "stimulate bilateral cooperation aimed at gaining access to markets of third countries. In this regard, he emphasized that "now that the possibilities to export are mainly tied to the need for imports, that is, to the principle of compensation, the idea of gaining access to third markets is very important."

As to his contacts with Cuban officials, including Fidel Castro, Campero said that several understandings were reached. The understandings include an agro-industrial program and accords involving regional products such as beef, canned food, fruit vegetables, and wines, among others. He stressed tht Cuba is a great fruit exporter, but at certain times of the year it faces certain difficulties that could be overcome with the help of Argentina, especially since Argentina products are encouraging restrictions in Brazil. He added that an act of understanding for fishing and technological cooperation in the field of seafood was signed between the two countries. He added: "We also drew up an accord on scientific and technical cooperation which has to do with exports of purely Argentine technology. It will be signed in Buenos Aires, for which the Cuban ministers [as published] will come to Argentina."

FOREIGN MINISTER SUMS UP FIRST HUNDRED DAYS

PY221151 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Foreign Minister Dante Caputo has summed up the first 100 days of constitutional government in the area of foreign policy: Argentina's capacity for autonomous decision making has been strengthened, and there have been decisions made to seek solutions to some important problems, such as the Beagle and Malvinas questions. He also noted Argentina's place in the Western world, especially in areas such as Latin America and the Nonaligned Movement. From this perspective, Minister Caputo indicated, Argentine foreign policy is directed toward a plurality of political partners.

'SELAM' AGENCY MATERIAL CRITICAL OF GOVERNMENT

PY221130 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2300 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 21 Mar (NA) -- Today Horacio Ravenna, head of the Foreign Ministry's Human Rights Department, charged that an alleged news agency, calling itself "SELAM," is disseminating abroad "critical and threatening" commentaries on President Raul Alfonsin's policy on the reorganization of the Armed Forces, human rights, and labor union reorganization. The Foreign Ministry official denied that this could "destabilize" the Argentine constitutional authorities, because "no death rattle of this type can destabilize such a strong government which is supported by people such as ours."

Ravenna, who learned about these reports during his visit to New York, from where he returned today, said that he will inform Interior Minister Antonio Troccoli about this and hand him "some 20 reports" issued by the alleged "agency" that were published by the U.S. media.

Revenna noted that "SELAM" seemingly is "an agency that sends reports abroad that contain commentaries, and not news," which are "critical and sometimes threatening to Alfonsin's government." He pointed out that the unknown "agency" seemingly has its headquarters in Buenos Aires from where it transmits its reports, via telex, to "sectors of the media that do not subcribe to it but mysteriously receive its commentaries on their printers."

Ravenna stated that he had been alerted about this during his visit to New York and that he will meet with Interior Minister Troccoli to "hand him the material I have brought" regarding the activities carried out by "SELAM."

He pointed out that according to what is stated on the material disseminated abroad, the alleged news agency's service "is free of charge." Revenna noted that the "threatening commentaries" usually refer to "the subject of human rights and the reorganization of the Armed Forces." He pointed out that among "some 20 reports" he has to give to Minister Troccoli, there is one that refers to the labor union reorganization bill. Ravenna said that the commentary stated that "Alfonsin fears the union leaders but that the ultraleft that would infiltrate the labor unions if the bill is approved is more dangerous than the current labor union leaders." Referring to the subject of human rights, another "commentary" asserted that the Radical government "wished to destroy the Armed Forces," and also refers to "other problem subjects."

Asked whether these commentaries seek to "destabilize" the Argentine Government, Ravenna said that he preferred "not to use that expression, because I do not think that any death rattle of that sort will be able to destabilize such a strong democratic government that is supported by people such as ours."

SAPORITI NEWS AGENCY CEASES OPERATIONS

PY161424 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1150 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 Mar (TELAM) -- The SAPORITI news agency today ceased its journalistic activities and its personnel will hold a press conference later this morning to discuss the situation. At 0130 the agency broadcast its last item in which it thanked the subscribers for their kindness and announced the end of its activities. Colonel Nicolas Savio, SAPORITI general manager, conveyed the decision to close the agency to the personnel performing journalistic functions.

Hector Lontrato, a journalist and member of the internal committee of the agency, indicated that journalists who were supposed to come in today for the morning shift were prevented from entering the building at 1366 Avenida de Mayo and only administrative personnel were allowed to enter. Lontrato indicated that the agency executives had put out a sign indicating that agency personnel can collect their pay as of 26 March. Lontrato also announced that agency personnel will meet at the door to the building at 1030 today to hold a press conference.

SIDE Ordered Dissolution

PY170215 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2145 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 Mar (TELAM) -- The Secretariat for State Intelligence (SIDE) today issued a communique in which it notes that the former workers of the SAPORITI news agency, which has ceased its activities, will be paid their full salaries and proper indemnization as soon as possible within the legal period.

It is specified that Saporiti S.A. Employed 179 persons. Of these, 144 were dismissed from their posts and 35 continue to work. Of the 144 persons dismissed, 81 are journalists who are in the country, 25 are abroad, and 38 persons belong to the administrative sector.

The communique notes that upon assuming his duties, the SIDE secretary "learned that among the properties of the Secretariat were the stocks of the Saporiti S.A. news agency, which was incorporated into the Secretariat in the 1970's." It adds that since it was believed that the activities carried out by the news agency were not in keeping with the functions carried out by the Secretariat, the proper officials were ordered to dissolve the news agency.

The communique notes that the Secretariat regrets the problems that this situation will cause to the approximately 120 employees in the country, and that therefore it assures that they will be paid their salaries in full and the proper indemnization as soon as possible, within the legal period.

CGT Protests Closure

PY170115 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2259 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 Mar (TELAM) -- The General Confederation of Labor of the Argentine Republic [CGT] today strongly protested the closure of the SAPORITI news agency, which is now added to other similar closures which have been taking place in the country. In a communique signed by Saul Ubaldini, the CGT demands that these measures be reversed, since they would only worsen the scourge of unemployment, and that that the government once and for all refrain from taking this type of action, especially at this time when we want to live in democracy and when the nefarious military dictatorship has just ended in our dear fatherland.

FOREIGN MINISTER ON BEAGLE SOLUTION, CHINA VISIT

PY222244 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle today stated that he personally feels that a solution to the Beagle conflict could be forthcoming in June this year. He added that he has considerable trust in the ability of the monsignors who are handling the mediation and of the members of the Chilean delegation.

[Begin Del Valle recording] I believe that in the end an understanding will be reached. This is a very personal opinion. This is not the opinion of the supreme government, but a personal opinion based on information available to me. My own impressions and the hope that I gained in Rome maintain my conviction that a solution will be found. I could set a tentative date for this solution, sometime in June, but this estimate is not based on anything concrete, it is only a forecast, a personal forecast which has no scientific basis. [end recording]

Speaking of the affair involving the Apostolic Nunciature in Santiago, Foreign Minister Del Valle said that the worst of it is over.

The foreign minister also said that the French Foreign Ministry was asked to supply special protection for the Chilean Embassy next Tuesday, 27 March.

[Begin Del Valle recording] When embassies fear that something could happen they have the authority to request special protection from the appropriate authorities. [passage indistinct] [end recording]

Finally, the minister announced that he plans to make an official 6-day trip to China.

INTERIOR MINISTER DECRIES 'WAVE' OF TERRORISM

PY230125 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1715 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Interior Minister Sergio Jarpa today said that the wave of terrorist attacks and violence unleashed in the last few hours is typical of extremist tactics. He also spoke about the attacks on Jorge Lavanderos and General Manuel Contreras.

[Begin recording] [Jarpa] An attack on an opposition leader, supposing that the attack took place the way the newspapers reported it, benefits only the extremist opposition, the opposition which carries disagreements or political struggle to the extreme of clashes and violence.

Something like this could never benefit the government and I am willing to stake my honor, responding to a very irresponsible and slanderous charge, by saying that no government group, institution, or agency has had a hand in it. It would help us in no way to attack an opposition leader. On the contrary, we have always offered to protect opposition leaders and their homes. I would like to take advantage of this opportunity to reiterate this offer. We are prepared to not only guarantee them every freedom allowed by the Constitution but also to protect them from attacks. Therefore, I could never even think that an attack of this nature could be carried out, encouraged, or condoned by this government.

As to the attack on Gen Contreras, it is an unfortunate incident but understandable because the terorists see Gen Contreras as someone who decisively, courageously, and effectively dealt with terrorist actions in his time. Therefore, it is hardly surprising that they should seek revenge.

However, and this I would like to say once again, every necessary measure has been taken and will continue to be taken to prevent this country from falling into the clutches of terrorist or extremist groups.

[Question indistinct]

[Jarpa] As you say, during prior protests there have not only been casualties but also violations of public order and destruction of public and private property and persons were attacked in various communities. You probably realize that it is impossible to have police guarding every street, every corner in every town and city of the country. However, everything possible is being done to ensure public order and prevent essential activities from being disrupted and thus allow the people to go about their affairs normally.

But, as I have said before about terrorism, in the case of these protests, too, the civilian population must cooperate because in the final analysis order, stability, freedom, and democracy are of interest to all Chileans, not to the government alone. Thus, if we want to attain these social gains, if we want to improve them and maintain them, we must all help. It is not a task for the government alone to prevent outrages, disruptions of public order, violent clashes, and casualties; it is something everyone must help with. [end recording]

Lavanderos Case Investigation

PY221523 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] The government has requested that a special judge be assigned to investigate the attack on former Senator Jorge Lavanderos. The appellate court has designated Judge (Arnoldo Toro) to initiate the investigation.

Contreras Blames Terrorists

PY221654 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Excerpts] General Manuel Contreras, retired, former director of the dissolved National Intelligence Directorate, DINA, has said that terrorists are responsible for the attack against him. He added that he has suffered several attacks in the last few years but that they all failed. The former DINA director also said that the terrorist attacks in Chile are not new but that the method used against him -- putting a bomb on the roof of an automobile -- is new. Gen Contreras made these remarks after a meeting the president held with the Circle of Retired Generals and Admirals. Gen Contreras is a member of its board of directors. The attack on the former DINA director was not specifically discussed during the meeting.

UNION LEADERS ARRESTED AT SANTIAGO DEMONSTRATION

PY230010 Paris AFP in Spanish 2336 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Santiago, 22 Mar (AFP) -- Manuel Bustos, president of the National Union Coordinating Board [CNS], was arrested today by the Carabineros, Chile's militarized police, along with a dozen or so union leaders while participating in a demonstration in downtown Santiago.

Sergio Troncoso, president of the Construction Workers Union, was arrested with Bustos when both were marching with hundreds of persons to demonstrate support for Jose Ruiz di Giorgio, national president of the oil workers union who was arrested 3 weeks ago. Bustos was expelled from the country on 3 December 1982 when he organized a demonstration against the regime of General Augusto Pinochet.

TEAMSTERS TO SUPPORT 27 MARCH 'DAY OF PROTEST'

PY220130 Paris AFP in Spanish 1914 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] Santiago, 21 Mar (AFP) -- Today the teamsters and other members of the land transport sector decided to join the day of protest to be held in Chile next Tuesday. The protest has been called by the National Workers Command and the opposition parties that are demanding President Augusto Pinochet's resignation. The decision was officially disclosed by the Land Transport Supreme Council, which is made up of the owners of trucks, taxies, and other passenger-transport vehicles.

According to union leaders, in some regions the teamsters have promised to block highways to express their dissatisfaction over the economic and political crisis the country is enduring.

The day of protest organized by the multi-union command, headed by Rodolfo Seguel, has been supported by the Democratic Alliance (AD), the Peoples Democratic Movement (MDP), and the Socialist bloc that represents currents ranging from the Republican right to the Marxist left. The organizers of the protest stated that the demonstrations will be peaceful and they will consist of marches, assemblies, student absenteeism from education centers, and the beating of pots and pans and honking of horns in the evening.

Santiago Merchants To Join

PY230140 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1715 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Leaders representing 70,000 Santiago retail merchants have agreed to make public their displeasure on 27 March. It was also announced that stores will close earlier than usual on that day. This information was disclosed by (Jaime Perez), president of the Federation of Santiago Retail Merchants.

[Begin (Perez) recording] Most leaders who attended last night's meeting of the Federation of Santiago Retail Merchants, which represents 56 Santiago merchants associations, have agreed to make public their displeasure over the answer which the Finance Ministry has given to their requests. This demonstration of displeasure will take place next Tuesday. As I said, this displeasure will be made public in various ways, depending on the decision reached at meetings which each association will hold. For the time being, one of the most popular measures is to close the stores much earlier than usual on Tuesday. [end recording]

UNION ORGANIZATION EXPELS CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT

PY221507 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] A purge is underway in the so-called National Union Coordinating Board [CNS]. Marxist sectors within this organization have resolved to remove Christian Democratic leader (Hernan Merit) from the CNS.

(Hernan Merit) has denounced the fact that the current president of the CNS, Manuel Bustos, has turned into a useful tool, thus demonstrating that the CNS is being (?managed) and oriented by the outlawed Communist Party. This statement by (Merit), who is linked to the Christian Democrats, led to a sort of people's trial by the clique of the CNS Executive Board. The latter has resolved to expel (Merit) from the organization.

The CNS has launched an offensive aimed at creating a trade union organization dominated by the Communists, the socialists, and the MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left], an organization which is to be the counterpart for the so-called National Workers Command led by Rodolfo Seguel.

JOURNALIST OF CAUCE MAGAZINE ARRESTED, BEATEN

PY212110 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1715 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] (Marcelo Castillo), a journalist with the magazine CAUCE, was arrested in downtown Santiago a little over an hour ago. The Carabineros arrested (Castillo) at 1215 on Moneda Street between Bandera and Ahumada Streets. According to (Edwin Jarrington), director of the magazine, and eyewitnesses, the Carabineros who arrested (Castillo) also beat him before bundling him into a taxicab. (Castillo) managed to shout for help, asking that the magazine be notified. (Castillo) had arrived from the northern part of the country where he had gone to collect background data for a report. (Jarrington) added that an injunction has been filed before the courts.

SWISS JUDGE NOT ALLOWED TO ENTER COUNTRY

PY201447 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0517 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 19 Mar (EFE) -- Rolando Berzier, a member of the Lausanne court in Switzerland, has not been allowed to enter the country and was placed aboard a plane going to Buenos Aires. Roland Berzier, who arrived in Chile today for a 3-month vacation, was not allowed to enter the country by border police who implied that there were decrees that prohibited him entering the country.

According to the Chilean Human Rights Commission, Berzier is a human rights expert who has denounced human rights violations in several countries. Lawyer Eduardo Loyola, who was at the airport to welcome the Swiss judge, noted that the judge has been in Chile more than once and that this issue would hinder bilateral relations between Chile and Switzerland, "particularly at a time when Finance Minister Carlos Caceres is scheduled to visit Switzerland to discuss Chile's economic situation."

Roland Berzier said that once in Buenos Aires he would carry out the proper proceedings through the Swiss Embassy in Chile so that he may be authorized to enter that country.

BRIEFS

ENVOYS TO SPAIN, EEC -- Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle has reported that Fernando Segers will be the new ambassador to Spain, replacing Mariano Fontecilla. Del Valle also reported that the EEC has agreed to the appointment of Manuel Trucco, former ambassador to the United Nations, as ambassador to the EEC. He said that Segers could take over in the next 15 or 20 days. Segers is currently serving as Foreign Affairs Ministry adviser for Antarctic and Maritime Affairs. [Text] [Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1715 GMT 19 Mar 84 PY]

MINISTER REPORTS DECREES ON STATE OF SIEGE

PA222123 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Bogota -- The national government has eliminated half of the court procedures involved in dealing with crimes in Caqueta, Huila, Meta, and Cauca -- the four departments where the state of siege has been established. It has also decreed other measures for control and security in the areas suffering from guerrilla violence.

These measures prohibit public demonstrations, except those authorized by the governors, and suspend the issuance and use of licences to carry weapons, except for special permits to be issued by the commanders of the appropriate military brigades.

Deputy Government Minister Victor G. Ricardo has said that another measure empowers the governors of those departments to impose emergency measures such as curfews and a dry law; to restrict the sale of alcoholic beverages; and to adopt the security and control measures deemed necessary to guarantee calm among the citizens of their departments.

An additional measure states that criminal court judges will be in charge of trying crimes occurring during the state of siege in those four departments. This had been done provisionally by the military courts.

Finally, Deputy Government Minister Ricardo said that these decrees complement Decree 615, issued on Wednesday, which established the state of siege in those departments following a thwarted attack on Florencia by an M-19 [19 April Movement] guerrilla column. According to the deputy minister, the text of the five complementary decrees, which were agreed upon following several meetings of the National Security Council, will be published today.

7TH BRIGADE PURSUES FARC, ELN AFTER CLASH

PA221851 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Arauca -- Units of the 7th Brigade today are continuing their intense air and land operation in an attempt to overtake the members of Squad 10 of the clandestine Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC, and the National Liberation Army [ELN] who clashed with Army troops a few hours ago. Eight rebels were killed in the action.

The Army command reported that the troops are continuing to search in the area between (Saradeno) and (El Tarare), where they have discovered a rebel camp and confiscated two rocket launchers, one bazooka, submachine guns, rifles, pistols, shotguns, grenades, diverse calibers of ammunition, and uniforms belonging to the Venezuelan and Colombian Armed Forces.

Investigations indicate that the members of this FARC-ELN bloc took part in an attack on the Venezuelan village of (Cucuji) last year in which several Venezuelan military personnel were killed.

GOVERNMENT CLOSES ABC COLOR INDEFINITELY

PY221423 Asuncion Radio Primero de Marzo in Spanish 1414 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] We have a report by (Tony Leon) from the newspaper ABC COLOR.

[Begin relay] This is a report from ABC COLOR. About 15 minutes ago, this newspaper received an official note from the Interior Ministry signed by Minister Sabino Augusto Montanaro suspending the publication of ABC COLOR indefinitely. [end relay]

Official Resolution on Closure

PY221603 Asuncion Radio Nanduti in Spanish 1430 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] At the beginning of our bulletin we ask Rufo Medina to read the text of Resolution 227 of the interior minister:

The resolution of the interior minister indefinitely suspending the printing and distribution of the newspaper ABC COLOR reads as follows:

Asuncion, 22 March 1984

Considering that Article 71 of the Constitution guarantees freedom of the press, expressly forbids inciting hatred and class struggle among Paraguayans, forbids extolling of crime or violence, and permits criticism of the law, and that one can call for disobedience to its provisions;

Considering that Article 50 of the Constitution, which establishes the state's fundamental obligation to protect the security, honor, and reputation of individuals;

Considering that the newspaper ABC COLOR has systematically and deliberately violated the provisions of the Constitution in a continuous effort to subvert public order, thus threatening peace and institutional stability in the Republic through the daily publication of seditious opinions in its editorials or as a mouthpiece of unrecognized political groups lacking legal or institutional support, thus promoting a state of social confusion, unrest, and alarm;

Considering the executive branch's obligation to comply with and to enforce compliance with the Constitution and to guarantee peace and a state of law, thus preserving the moral health of the Paraguayan people by preventing the proclamation and publication of statements contrary to the national interest;

The interior minister resolves:

Article 1: To indefinitely suspend the printing and distribution of the newspaper ABC COLOR beginning at 1200 today, 22 March 1984; and

Article 2: To communicate this resolution to those concerned for compliance.

[Signed] Dr Sabino Augusto Montanaro, Interior Minister

[Copy signed] Arevalos Ayala, Secretary General of the Interior Ministry

Other Dailies Warned

PY222035 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1929 GMT 22 Mar 84

[By Gerardo Gonzalez Vega]

[Excerpts] Asuncion, 22 Mar EFE -- Today Paraguayan General Alfredo Stroessner's government idefinitely suspended the publication of the Asuncion newspaper ABC COLOR under charges of "suverting public order" and of carrying out a campaign of a "seditious nature."

Although the executive branch's measure was learned beforehand, its announcement was received with surprise. Sources in ABC management told EFE that they hope to start taking legal steps to reopen the newspaper.

HOY newspaper director Humberto Dominguez Dibb and afternoon newspaper ULTIMA HORA director Demetrio Rojas have been summoned by the interior minister to his office. According to sources of those newspapers, Interior Minister Montanaro read the text of the order closing down ABC for an indefinite period of time to the two directors and warned them about "the government's firm decision" to maintain "the current democratic rule."

According to the sources, the prospects of a prompt reopening of the ABC newspaper are somber. ABC itself, in an editorial, pointed out that "life is something that can end at any time."

ABC COLOR Journalist Arrested

PY221450 Asuncion Radio Nanduti in Spanish 1425 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Radio Nanduti Director Humberto Rubin's interview with ABC COLOR legal adviser Geronimo Angulo Gaston -- live]

[Excerpt] [Rubin] Sir, what did the police officer tell you as he was arresting [ABC journalist] Jose Luis de Tone? [Angulo Gaston] Well, he promised me that if I was able to gather all ABC employees inside the ABC COLOR building, he was going to free De Tone. I have kept my promise, but he has not kept his. This is something that annoys me very much because I have always trusted the police and I will continue to do so if this promise is kept.

[Rubin] Why did the police arrest Jose Luis de Tone?

[Angulo Gaston] The truth of the matter is that I did not follow the incident closely. I suppose that when all the ABC employees were singing the national anthem, the police tried to disrupt this meeting by resorting to, shall we say, some measures to convince the people to comply with their orders. At that time, I saw the police taking away Jose Luis de Tone. I have no idea what might have happened, but I doubt that anything really did happen.

DAILY CRITICIZES ABC COLOR PUBLISHER'S ARREST

PY221502 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 21 Mar 84 p 10

[Editorial: "An Arrest That Is Not Reasonable"]

[Text] In any system of politico-social coexistence, acts should be fundamentally coherent, reasonable, and, above all, must have a clear legal force. The government, through the authorities who exercise power and judge the legitimacy of the citizens' actions, should have the good sense to act correctly, never abusing its power. It is not prudent for the government to act with animosity against the press, applying measures that rather than producing positive effects, just create unnecessary tension. Repressing criticism or silencing adverse opinions is obviously an antidemocratic action on the part of those who hold power.

According to the explanation which the interior minister gave to the media, ABC COLOR publisher Aldo Zuccolillo has been arrested because he refused to identify the journalist who was responsible for a published interview where indecent words were directed at the government and top state officials. This is the reason given by Minister Montanaro, but it is really insufficient as a cause to deprive the freedom of a newspaperman whose rights and duties are clearly stated in the national Constitution. The Constitution, in fact, in Article 72 proclaims as well as defends freedom of the press by saying that "the freedom of expression and information without prior censorship is inviolable, and no law that can limit or ban it will be dictated...." These principles are, of course, fundamental to the democratic republicanism which has been historically adopted in our country, and they should not be disregarded or violated for any political interest or circumstantial consideration.

The explanation given for this procedure is not convincing, and it is rather questionable from the legal standpoint. A measure such as this detracts from the official who adopted it, or at least it reveals imprudence by that official, because the measure exudes hostility against the freedom of expression which the Constitution ensures for the communications media and which must be guaranteed.

On many solemn occasions, the highest government officials have expressed respect for a free press, an attitude that is in line with the best democratic traditions and the Constitution. Unfortunately, this time the official action is the reverse: detrimental to the essential principles of our republicanism, and damaging to the civic spirit which the government should strengthen. To the extent that government officials and political sectors act with prudence, avoiding procedures that are at odds with legal mechanisms and juridical canons, we will move down a politically sound road, without tension and uneasiness among the citizenry.

ABC CITES PATRIA ON STATE DEPARTMENT DOCUMENT

PY221718 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 22 Mar 84 p 13

[From the "Whispering" column]

[Text] In yesterday's issue the newspaper PATRIA posed a question regarding a document released by the State Department which lists MOPOCO [Colorado Popular Movement] among international terrorist organizations. "Why was it first said that such a document did not exist, then that nobody was aware of it, and now it is being distributed," PATRIA asks itself? Apparently, our colleague with a forced readership is not used to calling by name those who are not members of the opposition or the independent press, because, although PATRIA failed to mention it, that timid question is meant for U.S. Ambassador Arthur Davis.

STRIKE HELD DESPITE SUSPENSION OF GUARANTEES

Union Leaders Comment

PY221454 Lima Cadena Panamericana Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Excerpt] (Isidoro Gamarra), leader of the CGTP [General Confederation of Peruvian Workers]-Communist branch, and Julio Cruzado, the leader of the CGTP-APRA [American Revolutionary Popular Alliance] branch, have stated that despite the suspension of constitutional guarantees, the strike will be held as scheduled.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] (Isidoro Gamarra), what are your views on the government's decision to suspend constitutional guarantees?

[(Gamarra)] Well, we are expecting the government to suspend constitutional guarantees because of the overwhelming support for the strike. But we believe that the government has adopted a very foolish decision since all Peruvian citizens and workers have shown that they are going to hold this strike despite this measure. [end recording]

Attacks Cause Damage, Injuries

PY221425 Lima Cadena Panamericana Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] There were a series of attacks tonight in several parts of Lima, causing damage and injuries.

Subversives carried out dynamite attacks at the intersection of Larco and Benavides Avenues, in the Miraflores neighborhood. Dynamite attacks were also carried out at the investigative police station located in the Pueblo Libre area, and at the Monterrey shop located in the same district. There were other attacks on La Marina Avenue, at the police hospital, and at the Santa Rosa Bridge.

One of the most serious attacks was carried out against the People's Bank in La Colmena District. A policeman and a young woman were injured in this attack, and two terrorists identified as Comrades (Omar) and (Carlota) were arrested.

Interior Minister on Stoppage

PY230235 Lima Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Excerpts] [Unidentified Reporter] A few minutes before noon Telediario is honored with the presence of Interior Minister Luis Percovich Roca, who has accepted an invitation to allow all our viewers in Lima and other parts of the country, whom we are reaching through the RPP [expansion unknown] network microwave and satellite system to know his direct opinion of the stoppage that has been called by the Communist CGTP [General Confederation of Peruvian Workers] and the CPT [Confederation of Peruvian Workers] and has been joined by a few other organizations. Mr Minister, according to the preliminary reports, could you tell us whether any incidents or riots have been reported?

[Percovich] Fortunately, the stoppage called by the four labor unions, the American Revolutionary Popular Alliance [APRA], and the Unity of the Left is so far free of incidents. There have been no clashes with the police forces, except for some isolated actions carried out by individuals who sought to block the highways leading into the capital.

The access to every highway is free and public transportation vehicles as well as private vehicles are using every highway normally. Thus, the transportation services -- presently -- are normal.

According to the reports that we have received from various parts of the country, it could be said that the stoppage is only partial, which reveals the mature attitude of the Peruvian people. The organizers, four labor unions and two noteworthy political parties, expected massive support, but they have been deceived. This will make them reflect and understand that under a democratic system one should discuss problems and give opinions through the normal channels.

[Reporter] Mr Minister, have any injuries or attacks against private property been reported?

[Percovich] Last night there were some attacks against private property. The people have already been informed about those explosions, which can probably be interpreted as a coordinated or combined action by subversive elements or criminals who intended to intimidate the inhabitants of Lima so that they would not go to work. Fortunately, this has created a negative response for the organizers of the stoppage, because I think it has encouraged the workers to go to work.

[Reporter] What can you tell us about the supply of goods at the market places?

[Percovich] It is normal. I have just visited several market places in the capital and have observed that goods are on sale and that there is a good supply.

[Reporter] Mr Minister, usually when this sort of thing occurs statistics on the percentage of workers that observe measures are shuffled. Could you give us an estimate?

[Percovich] I think that in order to make a precise evaluation we should wait for the reports that the Labor and Interior Ministries will release at noon. But for the time being, we could say that between 60 and 70 percent of the private and public employees have reported to work.

[Reporter] So far your statements have been made in your capacity as minister. How about your opinion as a politician.

[Percovich] From the political point of view I think that, since this strike call was eminently political, it represents a serious failure for those who have called a stoppage of such magnitude. As I said a few minutes ago, this should make them reflect. They are perfectly aware that in Peru we have channels, such as the free media, the national Congress, the possibility to hold talks with the government authorities in order to make and offer proposals, criticism, observations, suggestions, and alternatives, instead of resorting to a stoppage of the country which only leads to a worse economic situation than that which we are enduring. In times of crisis we must unite efforts and strengthen actions basically aimed at increasing production and improving the living standards.

I think this is a good opportunity to congratulate the Peruvian people for their maturity and for the way they have responded to a call that has only, as I have already pointed out, a political purpose and not a constructive spirit, and tells them that the government, despite the economic problems, is doing its utmost to overcome the crisis and fulfill the basic objectives of the government program.

'Tense Calm' Prevails

PY222230 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2014 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Lima, 22 Mar (EFE) -- An irregular response and isolated incidents which resulted in the wounding of a Communist senator, a deputy, and a youngster have marked the first hours of the national strike called for today despite the fact that the government has suspended constitutional guarantees.

Senator Jorge del Prado, secretary general of the Communist Party, was admitted to a local hospital after being hit in the chest by a tear gas bomb.

In Huancayo, 450 km east of Lima, a leftist deputy and the city mayor were wounded when the police dispersed a demonstration.

In Villa Maria del Triunfo, a youngster sustained a bullet wound, received under still uncertain circumstances.

The most serious incidents took place at Plaza Dos de Mayo, in Lima, where the Communist "CGTP"[General Confederation of Peruvian Workers] and the "CCP" [Peasants Confederation of Peru] headquarters are located, when police forces dispersed a demonstration using tear gas bombs and water cannons.

According to statements made this morning by Transport Minister Carlos Pestana, an atmosphere of tense calm prevailed in large areas of the capital, where a decrease in the traffic flow and the lack of crowds "made Lima seem like the great capital of a developed country."

Available public transportation has been almost reduced to the state-owned "Enatru-Peru" vehicles, which are operating under armed police escort. The police are armed with rifles.

Interior Minister Luis Percovich confirmed that the police intervened at the highways leading into Lima in order to lift the barricades built by the strikers.

According to the minister, in the San Martin de Porres neighborhood the district mayor was arrested and charged with "promoting" the blocking of roads.

A group of unidentified individuals planted explosives on the Cercanias railway, which links Lima with Chosica. However, the dawn attack did not cause any damage.

The stoppage has been observed by the Lima industrial and banking sectors, but many offices, stores, and other businesses have opened although their activities are very limited.

Labor Minister Joaquin Leguia chose not to evaluate the impact that the stoppage has had until later on in the day.

Lima Prefect Arturo Arrarte, however, pointed out that although many of the industrial enterprises did not open, they are working behind closed doors.

Arrarte accused a group of media photographers, whom he did not identify, of "inciting the strikers to build barricades and set tires on fire," presumably with the purpose of making more spectacular photographs of the stoppage.

Halfway through the day of protest the information received from the provinces is still incomplete.

In places such as Tacna, Huancayo, and Canete the stoppage was general while in others it only is being observed by some sectors.

In Huancayo, a gathering of strikers was dissolved by the police. This incident resulted in two wounded. They are Alejandro Olivera, deputy of the "United Left" coalition, and Mayor Celso Cardenas. The details of the incident were not disclosed, but "Radio Programas del Peru" radio station noted that an explosion took place while the demonstration was being dispersed.

The interior minister praised the "high degree of patriotism of those Peruvian citizens who have not observed the strike," and stated that the organizers "are in for a surprise because the measure is not receiving the 90-percent support they had estimated."

Julio Cruzado, an "APRA" [American Revolutionary Popular Alliance] member and president of the Social Democratic "CTP" [Confederation of Peruvian workers], stated precisely that 90 percent of the members and supporters of the organizers would observe the stoppage.

Industry Minister Ivan Rivera today estimated that if the stoppage is observed by the percentage announced by the organizers, the losses in the industrial sector alone would amount to 600,000 million soles ($230 million).

The tense atmosphere could worsen during the coming hours if the meetings and demonstrations called by the "Single National Struggle Command," which is coordinating the strike, take place.

The national 24-hour stoppage has been called by the Communist "CGTP," the Social Democratic "CTP," the Christian Democratic "CNT" [National Labor Confederation], and the "CTPR" [Federation of Workers of the Peruvian Revolution], which was created by the previous military regime, demanding a change in the government's economic policy and a salary increase.

CP Senator Injured

PY221850 Paris AFP in Spanish 1746 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Lima, 22 Mar (AFP) -- It has been learned from official sources that Senator Jorge del Prado (73 years old), secretary general of the (pro-Moscow) Peruvian Communist Party, was urgently taken to a local hospital today upon being seriously injured in the chest by a tear gas bomb shot at him from 2 meters away.

Del Prado had walked away from a group of leftist congressmen when the police launched an attack against the headquarters of the General Confederation of Peruvian Workers (CGTP) and to avoid tear gas grenades he stood all by himself at a corner adjacent to the CGTP headquarters.

Earlier another tear gas grenade had injured CGTP Vice President Cesar Barreda, union leader Jorge Fermine, and another unidentified union leader.

Strike Called Failure

PY230240 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0204 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Lima, 22 Mar (EFE) -- The repetition of incidents and an irregular response were the main characteristics of the national strike that was carried out today by the four Peruvian labor organizations protesting the government's economic policy.

The government, through its labor and interior ministers, has indicated that it considers that the strike "is a failure," while those who called for the strike stress that labor absenteeism was high.

Labor Minister Joaquin Leguia stated tonight that the average number of workers reporting for work throughout the country amounted to 66.4 percent, a figure that was confirmed by the interior minister on the basis of industrial consumption of electricity and police reports from the provinces.

Several leftist congressmen today asked for the resignation of Interior Minister Luis Percovich Roca due to the injuries received by a Communist senator.

Moreover, the interior minister indicated this afternoon that the injuries suffered by Del Prado, who is recovering in a Lima Hospital, indicate that they were not caused by a tear gas bomb.

The Lima prefect reported early this evening that 140 persons had been arrested during the day, including the leftist mayors of the populous Lima districts of San Martin de Porres and San Juan de Miraflores.

Some journalists were also arrested, including reporters from LA REPUBLICA, EL DIARIO MARKA, and EL OBSERVADOR.

Police intervention, in which some people suffered bruises and one person received a bullet wound, were in response, according to the authorities, to attempts to try and stop traffic.

Labor's response to the day of protest was irregular. A good part of the industrial, banking, and private public transportation sectors participated in the strike.

ALVA ORLANDINI ON NEW ECONOMY MINISTER

PY230147 Lima Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish 0645 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Senator Javier Alva Orlandini, second vice president of the Republic, has stated that there is great national expectation regarding the new economy minister's performance and pointed out that "the state's commitment to the 19 million Peruvian citizens should be granted priority treatment above any other commitment."

The new economy minister, Jose Benavides, pointed out that negotiations regarding the country's foreign debt are underway and that sustained IMF support is expected.

CONTROVERSY SURROUNDS NOVEMBER ELECTION PROCESS

Blanco Party Requests Change

PY222320 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Relay from Mobile Unit No 2; (Fernado Vilar) report from downtown Montevideo]

[Text] Although various media have been reporting denials of the news carried by El Espectador, this station wishes to confirm its report. A government source has confirmed the proposal of the Blanco Party, a proposal with wh ch several leaders of the party appear to agree in principle. The proposal suggests that the elections not be postponed but rather that the elections scheduled for 25 November be used to elect the congressmen while the president and vice president will be elected at a later date. Blanco Party leader Juan Pivel Devoto has been unavailable for questioning by journalists of this radio station, but a very high-ranking government source has supplied a detailed account of the events which were broadcast to the nation by Radio El Espectador Network.

Briefly, Juan Pivel Devoto, speaking on behalf of some of the leaders of the Blanco Party, reportedly has requested that the elections slated for 25 November be held to elect congressmen and not the president and vice president of the nation, who would be elected at a later date.

The leaders of the Colorado Party, who refused to make any statements this morning when questioned by journalists of El Espectador, have indicated that the issue will be discussed at an urgent meeting of the Colorado Party Executive Board which will be held this afternoon at party headquarters on Andres Martinez Trueba Street.

We can also report that the leaders of the Colorado Party were apprised of the Blanco Party proposal by the commanders in chief of the Armed Forces branches, who asked to meet at an unspecified place with Julio Maria Sanguinetti and Enrique Tarigo, whom they notified of the request of the Blanco Party.

The Armed Forces thus left, the decision on this matter in the hands of the Colorado Party, so that the former could act accordingly. The sources questioned by our reporters indicated that the Armed Forces and the government plan to maintain the established timetable; that is, that elections for president, vice president, and congressmen be held jointly on 25 November. In principle, it seems unlikely that the Blanco Party proposal will be accepted.

However, the situation is contradictory because Blanco Party leaders have categorically denied having asked for an elections postponement. Their denials, however, are not as categorical when dealing with the possibility of holding only legislative elections on 25 November and that presidential and vice presidential elections be held at a later date.

El Espectador Network, which received the first information on these developments early this morning, did not disseminate it until a government source confirmed that the Armed Forces had indeed received a request from the Blanco Party and relayed it to the Colorado Party which, according to some of its leaders, will reach some decision this afternoon at a meeting of its executive board, which was called, we repeat, on an urgent and serious basis. This meeting is bound to come up with a highly significant political decision which could, perhaps, clarify this situation.

Blanco Leaders Denies Request

PY222345 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] The Blanco Party flatly denies having held talks with the Armed Forces to obtain a postponement of the elections. This statement was made to our radio station by a member of the Rocha Movement faction, Manuel Maria Singlet.

[Begin recording] [Singlet] We flatly deny this report. Neither the Blanco Party Executive Board, nor the majority faction of the party, that is, the one made up by the Movement for the Fatherland and the National Rocha Movement, nor at any meeting attended by the main leaders, has discussed the possibility of postponing the elections. Furthermore, this report is glaringly contrary to the position which the two movements have maintained throughout all these years. They have always maintained their opposition to the de facto government and have demanded that it should end as soon as possible.

[Unidentified reporter] Manuel Singlet, there has been talk that your party has held meetings with the Armed Forces to propose, not the postponement of the elections perhaps, but that these elections be legislative and not presidential. That is to say, that they be used to elect congressmen so that the latter could elect the president later. Is this true?

[Singlet] The party has never advocated this position officially. Obviously there are legal precedents of this procedure in other countries, but let us make it clear that even if someone had such an idea, no change of date was ever contemplated. However, the party has never discussed this position. Various high-ranking leaders of the party, like Julio Pereyra, have repeatedly stated that the party wants elections in November, elections that should be straightforward and aboveboard with everyone participating in them.

[Reporter] Does this mean that even though the idea of legislative elections was never discussed officially it is an underlying possibility?

[Singlet] To the extent that it could mean a delay of the election, which is what is at stake according to the report, I wish to emphatically deny that the party has discussed this possibility.

[Reporter] Very well. Mr Manuel Singlet of the Rocha Movement, thank you for your statement.

[Singlet] At your service. [end recording]

Indirect Elections Proposed

PY230153 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] As we reported previously, Professor Juan Pivel Devoto has issued a declaration reporting on the scope of the meeting he held with the Armed Forces. The text of the declaration released a few minutes ago by the president of the National Party Board reads as follows:

At the meeting with the Armed Forces, we discussed the possibility of an indirect election of the president of the Republic by the General Assembly, which must be elected at the elections slated for 25 November 1984. This assembly will be installed on February 1985.

The president of the Republic would be freely designated by the General Assembly on 1 March 1985, without recognizing the existence of any proscription. The possibility that this solution would involve the idea or the purpose of postponing the elections or the extension of the government term was not discussed at all.

I want to repeat this statement: Neither the postponement of the elections nor of the term in office was discussed. In this manner, the solution which is attributed to me is not true, in the sense of postponing for 2 years the date for national elections.

I want to add two more points: I have not negotiated any agreement with the commanders in chief of the Armed Forces. I have only held preliminary talks with them. It is the Board of the National Party that must make the decision. When the time comes for this decision, and the party designates delegates to the COMASPO [Armed Forces Political Affairs Commission], these delegates will then receive the party's instructions.

I finally want to state that by no means can this episode be related to the well-defined and well-known guidelines issued by Wilson Ferreira Aldunate.

Signed: Juan E. Pivel Devoto

Minister Confirms Timetable

PY230210 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] The rumor of partial elections in November represents a political maneuver, Defense Minister Justo Alonso Leguisamo has stated. He has confirmed the government's intention to respect the current timetable. This is the conversation held between the minister and a Radio Carve reporter:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Mr Defense Minister, are government circles saying that the established timetable will be fulfilled?

[Alonso] I do not see why not.

[Reporter] A rumor has been circulating on the possible postponement of the elections.

[Alonso] With what purpose, I do not know.

[Reporter] Have you heard the rumor?

[Alonso] There is a rumor, but of partial, congressional elections. But this rumor has not gained any importance yet. I suppose it is one of the many political maneuvers.

[Reporter] Where do these rumors come from? Can you tell us?

[Alonso] Sure. They come from the well-known letter from Ferreira to Pivel Devoto.

[Reporter] Do you confirm that the process will be fulfilled according to schedule?

[Alonso] Yes. This is the intention of all government members at this moment.

[Reporter] Has any type of change been mentioned within the civilian-military government, or at least in reference to this question, some proposal in this regard?

[Alonso] No. Not as far as I know. [end recording]

PRESIDENT MAKES STATEMENT ON INTERVENTION, TRIP

FL220234 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2047 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] Mexico energetically and categorically opposes all types of intervention, continuing in this way its unchanging foreign policy guidelines, President Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado stated today.

Interviewed at the Juarez Monument after the commemoration of the 178th anniversary of Juarez' birth, the chief of the executive branch referred to his scheduled Latin American trip that will begin next Monday.

De la Madrid stated that consistent with Mexican foreign policy he will maintain the affirmation for world and regional peace. Toward achieving a rapprochement with our brothers in the area, he will also accentuate the need for cooperation between nations and peoples to overcome the grave economic and social problems which affect humankind, he said. He stressed the fact that he will struggle for a greater reciprocal rapprochement to strengthen the movements of economic interaction and the coordination of the policies of the nations in the area, to which end he will reiterate the urgent need to adjust the world economic order.

Asked about his support of the Contadora Group's efforts, he requested respect for the process of political negotiation based, he said, on reason and law. Mexico, he stated, opposes the increased violence in the region, which can only harm peaceful negotiations. I am certain, he said, that the other Contadora Group members and Central Americans in general agree with these positions.

Despite the foregoing, he recognized that an increase in the escalation of violence has been observed. He reiterated that this situation is directly prejudicial to the objective of an honorable and just negotiated peace such as that being sought by the Contadora Group.

PEREZ DE CUELLAR TERMS CONTADORA 'GOOD OPTION'

FL222031 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1620 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Mexico City, 22 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar has stated here that Contadora is a good option for the crisis in Central America because tensions will remain acute unless conflicts are resolved in a just and lasting way.

Perez de Cuellar visited the UN offices in Mexico and noted that the international community is following the development of the Central American conflict with interest. However, he admitted that the limitations facing the United Nations prevent it from bringing conciliation to the parties involved.

He said that he is convinced that the Contadora Group will know how to find a negotiated and favorable solution that will benefit not only Central America but the entire world.

UNADE PUBLISHES 1984-89 GOVERNMENT PLATFORM

PA162208 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 16 Mar 84 Special Supplement

["Platform of Government, Panama 1984-1989," issued by the National Democratic Union, UNADE, in Panama City; date not given; capitalized passages as published]

[Excerpts] I. Introduction

This is the government platform that the UNADE is proposing to the Panamanian people. It is a message of hope and of deep human content, designed to help us overcome our present problems. It is a commitment to change, in order to solve our problems. This message calls on the Panamanians to choose a young government for a young country, to unite around the ballot of victory tha will lead the way toward change for the general welfare.

II. Prospects and Tasks of Our Development as a People, as a Nation, and as a State

Our country is going to hold elections in May and June 1984 in order to resolve, by democratic means, our difficult economic, social, political, and moral situation. This situation obliges all Panamanians to examine, with objectiveness and serene firmness, the challenges today facing the Republic. National debate on the situation has already begun. Two basic positions are confronting each other in this debate. One seeks to return to a past that involved historical national and international circumstances that have since changed profoundly. The other position, that held by UNADE, seeks to respond to the challenges of the present by first consolidating the advances that we have already achieved, correcting errors, and adopting new attitudes and initiatives in carrying out the urgent tasks that are required to improve the Panamanians' standard of living and to enhance our fatherland.

Those primary tasks are:

1. TO EFFECTIVELY PERFECT THE TASK OF DEMOCRATIZING OUR POLITICAL LIFE.

2. TO STRENGTHEN AND MODERNIZE OUR PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS AND TO ELIMINATE CORRUPTION.

3. TO UNDERTAKE THE TASKS REQUIRED FOR THE COUNTRY'S OVERALL DEVELOPMENT, BASED ON THE DYNAMIC GROWTH OF THE ECONOMY.

4. TO IMPLEMENT AN INTERNATIONAL POLICY THAT IS ADAPTED TO OUR NATIONAL INTERESTS.

Considering the conflicts that exist in the world and the region in which we live, we can declare that our problems are no greater than our potential for resolving them.

That potential is founded on the Panamanians' commitment to peace and progress and on the results of a process of change and modernization that we have already begun and that is continuing today in the form of the upcoming national elections.

III. A Program of Change for the General Welfare

The program UNADE has proposed seeks to satisfy the aspirations and needs of the great majority of the nation.

What Is the Role of the State in Satisfying the Aspirations and Needs of Panamanians?

The state must invest to produce a better distribution of well-being by intensifying the services that our people demand and deserve. However, among all Panamanians, it is necessary to give greater attention to those who have the least. It is necessary to give priority attention to the neglected and poor suffering daily in the slum sections of the metropolitan areas and to the neglected and poor of the urban areas, all of whom hope to fully enjoy the benefits of development.

In order to respond to the aspirations and needs of all Panamanians, UNADE invites the citizens to struggle for the following objectives:

1. In the Area of Development and Economic Growth

All of our goals can be achieved, to the extent that our economy produces the wealth and has the necessary resources. Therefore, to reactivate our economy, it is necessary to:

a. Actively promote, as immediate objectives, the creation of new jobs, increased private investment, increased exports, and the development of harmonious relations between workers and employers.

b. Promote greater development of the cities of Panama, Colon, and La Chorrera, and of the areas that formerly constituted the "Canal Zone," wherein we propose to:

-- ENCOURAGE a more productive social and economic use of the areas of the former "Canal Zone" by giving priority to initiatives and activities that will generate the most jobs and wealth for the greatest number of Panamanians, while being careful at the same time to ensure the best use of the land for the development of the areas adjacent to the canal and for the defense of the natural environment. We propose to make a greater effort to fully incorporate the areas of the former "Canal Zone" into the country's economic and social development.

-- PROVIDE adequate incentives for the best use of the already existing infrastructure for the sale of tourist, communications, transportation, and financial services to international trade, which has been and will continue to be one of the most important sectors of our economy.

-- PROMOTE the construction industry and at the same time meet the need for and hopes of decent family housing for residents of the metropolitan area by constructing new low-cost housing projects.

-- PROMOTE industrial production for export by increasing productivity, particularly in order to take advantage of the Caribbean Basin Initiative and of other initiatives from other countries designed to encourage the creation of new industries and to attract foreign investment, to work in harmony with national capital.

-- MAKE a special effort to promote the development of Colon with the active participation of the residents of Colon at all the levels of decisionmaking that affect them.

c. Promote a greater development of the interior. To this end, we propose to encourage integrated economic development, primarily on the basis of the following:

-- ENCOURAGEMENT of production for export and diversification of exports.

-- IMPROVEMENT of relations between rural areas and cities in the interior, promoting agroindustrial activities and the establishment in those rural areas of economic activities that can support agricultural development.

-- IMPLEMENTATION of a settlement policy for the development of our virgin lands on the new frontiers of Darien, Bocas del Toro, Colon, and Cocle, promoting the adequate use and protection of our renewable natural resources.

d. Promote agricultural production by strengthening mechanisms to support the agricultural sector, such as technical assistance, agricultural research, appropriate financing, marketing facilities, and the granting of land titles.

e. Achieve the adequate use of the resources of our extensive territorial waters and our coasts, so as to continue developing fishing activities and intensifying new agricultural techniques in order to obtain more sources of jobs and more products for export.

f. Coordinate and improve transportation services, which, although they are the country's primary activity, have not received attention in due proportion to their potential for contributing to our development.

g. Guarantee an increasing supply of energy at the lowest possible price and with the greatest possible freedom from dependence on imported fuel, through an integrated exploitation of our energy resources and a search for new energy sources.

h. Struggle for a balanced regional development that will guarantee that the various provinces have truly equal access to private investment and to the construction of infrastructual projects.

i. The effort to achieve integrated development that we have outlined will take place within a delicate fiscal situation, not only because of the need to service the existing public debt but also because of the present limitations that make it difficult to obtain new resources on the international capital market. The economic growth that we will achieve will generate the necessary jobs and will also serve both to help us meet our debt servicing obligations and to reduce our need for foreign financing.

In view of this, we must take measures to:

-- ACHIEVE the most efficient use of and a better control over public financial resources, seeking not only to spend less but also, and above all, to invest more efficiently.

-- ENCOURAGE and stimulate the participation of domestic capital, with confidence and a feeling of security, in the task of confronting the crisis by making changes to achieve integrated development, since that capital will be one of the primary beneficiaries of that development.

-- CREATE the conditions that make our country more attractive for the investment of foreign capital and technology on terms that are compatible with the nation's interest.

j. Prevent economic development from being translated into irreparable damage to our natural environment.

k. Promote the development initiatives needed to overcome existing inequalities among the country's social groups and regions.

2. In The Area of Government and Administration

Throughout the 1970's, the Panamanian state assumed many responsibilities required to create the material foundations and the indispensable conditions necessary to begin changing to achieve our integrated development. The state's fulfillment of those responsibilities has resulted in achievements that should be consolidated and surpassed.

To consolidate those achievements and to advance toward new goals, UNADE proposes:

a. To reaffirm the executive branch's ability to direct the administration of the state.

b. To achieve harmonious collaboration and cooperation between the legislative branch and other branches of the state and to guarantee the effective enforcement of the law.

c. To strengthen public administration qualitatively by properly organizing its functions and constantly improving the technical and scientific levels of both personnel and institutions.

d. To combat corruption and contraband by punishing those guilty of such crimes and by taking long-term measures that range from strengthening the office of the comptroller general of the Republic to a struggle against bureaucratic practices that, because they involve excessive delay and unnecessary complexity, may foster dishonesty among public servants.

e. To work toward the true professionalization of public administration by means of measures that range from continuous training programs for public servants to the creation of the necessary legal guarantees of job stability so that public servants may pursue an administrative career on the basis of their merit and efforts, and not on the basis of possible political or family connections.

f. To decentralize public administration by means of measures that give all citizens and social groups access to government decisionmaking centers by making the necessary reforms to allow corregimientos, municipalities, and provincial governments to make use of the guarantees provided them by the Constitution.

g. To guarantee equal justice for all through a deep-seated reform of administrative and judicial institutions and procedures.

h. To defend the principle that the country's security and defense problems fall within the sphere of administration and government of our nation, while taking care to:

-- ENSURE respect for the principle that national security is the responsibility of the entire nation, in the person of its citizens and the members of the National Defense Forces, and particularly of the president of the Republic.

-- ENSURE that the National Defense Forces contribute their share of effort to the country's integrated development, particularly by adding their technical and human resources to the struggle against poverty and neglect, which are basically the causes of crime and of the threats to peace and public security.

-- ENSURE the continuation of the process of professionalization and specialization that is currently underway within the National Defense Forces as they prepare to fully assume the defense of the Panama Canal.

3. In the Area of Social Welfare and Security

To guarantee the peace and welfare of the nation, economic growth must be accompanied by measures directed toward the social promotion of all people and groups, particularly those that require the most support in order to contribute to the change that we all desire.

4. In the Area of Culture and Education

To achieve a substantial improvement in the levels of education and culture, in consonance with the aspirations of the youth and the demands of our era, it is necessary to:

a. Strengthen the feeling of pride in the national identity by studying the nation's history and experience, by exalting ethnic and cultural diversity as a source of material and spiritual wealth for Panamanians, and by promoting the proper dissemination of our historical reality in public and private schools.

b. Develop the nation's creative capacity in the arts and sciences and in technology, and publicize Panamanian works.

c. Promote scientific research and the transfer of technology in the areas required for the country's development.

d. Struggle for the following objectives in education, taking into consideration the recommendations of the National Education Commission:

-- TO IMPROVE the quality of teaching at all levels.

-- TO SUPPORT technical and vocational education, in line with requirements for the integrated development of the country.

e. Ensure that the communications media practice true freedom of expression by providing objective and truthful information that serves the general interests of the nation and promotes our basic moral values.

In the Area of International Relations and Foreign Policy

We are enhanced by anything that helps to promote exchanges, peace among nations, and the recovery of the world economy. We are diminished by anything that helps to isolate us from any sector of the international scene and leads us to adopt foreign interests as our own. Therefore, our basic goal must be defense of the sovereignty, dignity, and territorial integrity of our fatherland, while we also cooperate in international defense of the human and democratic rights to which we are committed as a people. We also propose to expand markets for the export of Panamanian goods and services.

Consequently, UNADE proposes:

a. To pay special attention to our relations with the United States of America, particularly as concerns the correct interpretation and faithful implementation of the 1977 Panama Canal Treaties and efforts to alleviate tension and reduce the threat to the peace and security of our region.

b. To explore, from the viewpoint of the nation's interests, options for improving the quantity and quality of the services that the canal provides to world trade and to carry out improved studies of the markets of industrial countries with which we hope to establish more profitable relations.

c. To contribute to the peaceful solution of the tragic Central American conflict by supporting the Contadora Group and promoting respect for the territorial integrity of the countries involved, the maintenance of democratic and pluralistic systems, the defense of human rights, and the elimination of the use of force as an instrument of pressure among groups and nations. The Treaty of Neutrality of the Republic of Panama and of the Interoceanic Canal must be applied [debe desarrollarse] to this same end.

d. To cooperate in the search for solutions to the problems involved in the development of Latin America, particularly the problem of its foreign debt, which also affect the functioning of our economy.

e. To support, by our international actions, the progress of the world's less developed countries.

f. to strengthen our presence in international organizations and to make it more systematic.

g. To continue to develop friendly relations with all states, within criteria of mutual respect and human soldiarity.

IV. A Change for All and for the Good of All

This platform presents to the Panamanian people a realistic program, a program of opposition to hunger, unemployment, injustice, and a lack of hope.

FREPU PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE INTERVIEWED

PA211623 Panama City LA GACETA FINANCIERA in Spanish 19 Mar 84 pp 1, 10-12

[Interview with Jose Renan Esquivel, presidential candidate of the United People's Front, FREPU, by an unidentified reporter; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] Question: On the subject of agriculture, we can see that despite an increase in prices, agricultural production continues to be stagnant. Some believe that the root of the problem lies in technological backwardness, in the limited development of services in the agriculture and livestock sector, and in an incorrect price policy. What is your opinion?

Answer: For us, that is, in FREPU's government platform -- this must be clear -- this subject is an important electoral issue.

It requires a long-term program, which demands responsibility from all Panamanians, at all levels, because what we want is to give the government to the people.

Question: What would your government's agricultural policy be?

Answer: The agricultural problem is not simple. It is a very complex situation, with many angles that must be carefully analyzed in order to come up with the proper solutions.

There is a problem regarding land ownership. This not only has to do with the unbalanced distribution of land, but also with the disorganization in the issuance of land titles and the occupation of land.

In view of this, FREPU proposes a real and effective agrarian reform that is not aimed at expropriating land from those who make it produce at an acceptable level. Our agrarian reform instead seeks to encourage production on all the land that is usable for agriculture, and to expropriate the land that is not being used or that is not being properly exploited.

The third aspect of the agricultural problem is the fact that there are peasants who have no land. These peasants will be organized in settlements, which will become highly productive enterprises. We will organize cooperatives for small- and medium-sized land owners. We are not against the modern private agricultural enterprise with a high output. On the contrary, we are in favor of them, but we demand that they comply with the labor and social security laws. They will receive protection from the FREPU government as long as they contribute to the national wealth.

Question: The subject of the foreign debt is one of the most widely discussed topics during the current electoral campaign.

Our foreign debt currently absorbs 40 percent of the national budget, and it is possible that it will take up 60 percent of the budget in 3 years. What would you do if you became the president? Are you in favor of restructuring the foreign debt, or do you have a different proposal?

Answer: FREPU is aware of the burden that our large foreign debt represents for our country, and that it will have to be assumed by future generations. We have defined our position concerning this subject in our government platform. We will seek renegotiation, and we intend to use only 20 percent of our current income for the payment of our foreign debt.

Since we will try to reactivate our economy, it is very possible that this 20 percent will result in higher sums than those which are currently being paid.

If the FREPU government failed to obtain a renegotiation with the country's creditors -- which we doubt -- we would be willing to declare a 5-year moratorium for any difference not covered with the 20-percent limit.

The FREPU government will conduct a profound revision of everything concerning the fiscal policy, in order to implement a more equitable tax system and to increase the country's income.

Question: What fiscal changes would you propose?

Answer: If this revision does not prove to be enough, we will levy new taxes or increase the current ones on luxury items and on products such as tobacco and liquor. We intend to rationalize the state bureaucracy.

This must be done, not by dismissing employees, but by transferring them to more productive positions, where they can be more useful in the government apparatus. This should result in more income for the state.

Question: What about budget investments?

Answer: A revision is necessary.

Question: Do you believe in substituting imports for the development of a free and competitive market?

Answer: We must increase our income which we derive from the exploitation of the canal. This does not mean that we should forget our exports, which we plan to stimulate and increase. We know that we are facing problems with international prices, over which Third World countries have no control, but it is possible to increase our exports on certain products.

Question: Such as?

Answer: Those products that already show high sales in our balance of trade: condensed and evaporated milk, fruit extracts, molasses, cocoa, fish meal, etc. There are many products in the agro-industrial field that Panama could export.

Question: The creation of more jobs is a topic common to all the presidential candidates. How could we create more jobs? Do you think that the difficulties in creating more jobs are caused by labor and union policies, or do you think the problem is due to other factors?

Answer: This is a very delicate subject these days. We propose that FREPU should maintain and defend the privileges to which workers are entitled according to the 1972 labor code, which is an excellent code.

Its misinterpretation has been the cause of many problems, but this code is a very important tool for the workers.

Question: What do you mean by misinterpretation?

Answer: Many have spoiled it, because they have not interpreted the code as it was intended.

Naturally, we will encourage the unionization of all workers, in recognition of the existence of the National Council of Organized Workers, CONATO. With them we will examine some fundamental aspects in the organization of labor and trade unions.

Question: Doctor, the state enterprises the government created a few years ago have been criticized. Some believe that they should be sold. Others think that it would be better to keep them. How would you handle this? Would they be reorganized, restructured, or sold? Why do you think these enterprises have been criticized so much?

Answer: We believe that some state enterprises are needed and suitable, that they are important.

We will not sell any state enterprise before first studying its problems and the ways of finding a solution to these problems. Such a study would certainly take into consideration reorganizing and rehabilitating existing enterprises. State-owned sugar mills, for example, have been criticized, but the fact that the government has been subsidizing privately owned sugar mills has not been acknowledged.

The Ofelina and Santa Rosa Sugar Mills were able to sell their refined sugar on the domestic market, a captive market, while the state mills had to sell their crude sugar on the fluctuating international market. It would take too long to list the many little tricks that the private sugar mills brought into play to enter the international market when prices there went up.

We will defend state enterprises as a source of employment for many Panamanians.

Question: One of the most interesting and controversial topics is that of the areas that have been returned to Panama and how they are being used. These include assets such as the railroad and the ports returned to Panama. We can discuss this. What do you think about the use that is being made of the returned areas?

Answer: You are talking about the returned areas and their underutilization, right? There are lands and other assets that are not included in an adequate program of physical integration to Panama's economy and culture.

The most important piece of land on this continent is that land bordering the canal. FREPU maintains the Panamanian people's position that these assets must be given the most collective use possible. Therefore, FREPU opposes the utilization of that area for speculation and for making private profit.

Question: Do you believe that the Torrijos-Carter Treaty is not being complied with?

Answer: Some of that land will be used to build low-priced houses near work centers. The significance of that large portion of land must be studied very carefully. That land is important for a country such as ours that has to make the best use possible and do it in the most humane and social way considering the struggle that Panama has had to wage to secure this land.

Question: Doctor, do you think that Panama's service-oriented economy is the best one for the country?

Answer: No. We must have the participation of the entire population. We must promote production in all sectors. We have an excellent country and we either want to keep it that way or we relegate it to remaining a nation that provide without securing our liberation.

Question: If you become president, would you try to regulate Panama's service-based economy, would you try to develop it or would you reduce this type of economy that is characteristic of Panama?

Answer: We are working on a program. We are still a dependent country but we must search for what can make us independent and provide equitable distribution.

BRIEFS

JAPANESE OFFICIALS VISIT PROJECTS -- Members of the Japanese Embassy and local journalists today toured technical cooperation projects of the Panamanian and Japanese Governments in order to confirm their development. The group visited the National Institute for Professional Training, INAFORP, to which the Japanese Government has donated equipment and technical assistance totaling $8 million through the bilateral agreement of August 1982. The group later visited a cancer hospital to which the Japanese Government has also donated equipment which is valued at $2.8 million, making this specialized center one of the most modern in Latin America. Finally, the group visited the Channel 11 Television Station, an educational station. This station, through a bilateral agreement between the Japanese and Panamanian Governments, is receiving $5 million in equipment and technical assistance from Japan. [Summary] [Panama City Televisora National in Spanish 2300 GMT 20 Mar 84 PA]

PANAMANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSSES CONTADORA

PA220429 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Interview with Panamanian Foreign Minister Oyden Ortega by an unidentified reporter, date and place not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Ortega] We will meet on 30 April to receive reports from the three appointed commissions. This will be an important meeting, because it will give us a working document resulting from the efforts and a very high-level consensus of all the countries represented.

[Reporter] Why is the CADESCA [Action Committee for the Economic and Social Development of Central America] secretary general present at the meetings of the technical group?

[Ortega] CADESCA is part of SELA and was created as part of the Contadora Group's initiative in dealing with economic problems. Its secretary general has attended the meetings to outline CADESCA's objectives and its special interest in developing the region's resources and in contacting international financial institutions that may help the region achieve its economic development.

[Reporter] Nicaragua has asked for more specific action by the Contadora Group in view of an imminent U.S. invasion. What is the group's position on this?

[Ortega] The Contadora Group acts on joint decisions. A separate statement made by one of its ministers does not represent the group's position. Therefore, this matter would require consultations among the foreign ministers before any decisions are made. In the meantime, our role in the region is certain, real, and objective. We know that the conflicts are difficult and serious; that is why the group was formed. That is also why we think that the reports and projects to be delivered on 30 April are very important for arriving at conclusions and agreements. We could say that as yet the Central American countries do not have any contractual obligations; they have not signed any international agreement demanding specific measures from them. Despite the efforts made, the documents approved by the Contadora Group are only the basis for this treaty.

COSTA RICA

U.S. MILITARY ENGINEERS TO BUILD ROADS, AIRPORTS

PA221647 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Excerpts] In accordance with an agreement signed by the Costa Rican and U.S. Governments, U.S. military engineers will carry out several projects in northern and southern Costa Rica. The government several weeks ago rejected a visit by a team of 1,200 military engineers who would have been stationed in the Upala region on the border. However, the government has now reconsidered its decision and has decided to allow their arrival. The U.S. engineers will reportedly arrive in the next few weeks to carry out important projects in Liberia, Perez Zeledon, Coto Brus, Corredores, and Golfito. Regarding the U.S. military engineers' work in the country's southern area, reports say that a plan including the construction of highways and the construction or expansion of airports is being drafted. The San Isidro Airport will be expanded to accomodate all types of commercial planes. The San Isidro-Dominical Highway, which is regarded as a very important project in view of the problems with the Inter-American Highway near the Cerro de la Muerte area, will be built.

The projects to be carried out by the U.S. engineers in the southern area of the country and the enlargement of the Llano Grande Airport will be financed by AID [Agency for International Development]. A series of meetings have been held over the past few days between government officials and U.S. Ambassador Curtin Winsor, who will be traveling to Washington in the next few days to finalize this plan. Originally, the U.S. engineers had been scheduled to come at the beginning of February to build the Liberia-Upala Highway and other interior projects. However, the plan was suspended when the authorities thought that the presence of U.S. Army troops could be construed as a threat.

PRESIDENT MONGE WARNS OF POSSIBLE 'CATASTROPHE'

PA221722 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 11 Mar 84 p 3

[Text] President Monge has warned the country that a catastrophe could occur and everything that has been achieved in the past few months at the cost of such sacrifice could fall apart like a house of cards. Monge said at the Presidential House that "unless we resolve the inequities and imbalances of the social crisis, unless we increase production, unless we increase exports, every advance that we have made in combatting our current period of adversity could fall apart, with catastrophic results for Costa Rica." Monge added: "The most serious aspect of this is that we would be unable to preserve peace and our democratic, institutional system." Monge noted that the inflation rate had been lowered from 100 percent to 11 percent. He said that many leaders from other countries are amazed that Costa Rica could preserve its social peace while applying harsh measures. I think, he said, that this has been due to the Costa Rican people's understanding." [quotation mark as published] "We want to preserve our peace and freedom so that, within that framework, we can overcome the problems of production and correct a number of social inequities in the country," Monge added.

EL SALVADOR

NORIEGA SAYS PANAMA TO PARTICIPATE IN MANEUVERS

PA222240 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2211 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] San Salvador, 22 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the National Defense Forces of Panama, declared here today that his country will participate with the United States in the military maneuvers that are scheduled to be held soon. Noriega today arrived in El Salvador to receive a distinguished award from the Salvadoran Armed Forces. Moments before the ceremony, he told newsmen that Panama has previously participated in maneuvers such as these, which are strictly for military training purposes. "We have participated before, and we will not be excluded from the current maneuvers. We have been invited to participate for training purposes," Gen Noriega explained.

C-123 CRASHES AFTER HITTING MINE IN SAN MIGUEL

PA230012 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2328 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] San Salvador, 22 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- A Salvadoran Air Force military aircraft crashed this morning after activating mines that had been placed on the runway of "El Obrajuelo" airport in San Miguel Department. The aircraft, a C-123 cargo plane, activated the mines as it landed at the airport, where it was taking a shipment of ballot boxes for Sunday's presidential elections.

Early this morning the "El Obrajuelo" runway had been checked by military technicians hoping to prevent attacks by the guerrilla forces. According to information obtained thus far, the aircraft broke a plastic wire, which, as the airplane landed, activated the mines placed by rebels. As a result of the mine explosions, three crew members were slightly injured. They were taken to a San Miguel hospital 130 km from here. Ballot boxes are now being transported to Salvadoran departments in order to equip more than 6,000 polling places that will be used in the elections on Sunday, 25 March.

FMLN Claims Responsibility

PA230037 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] Radio Venceremos, official voice of the FMLN, begins this broadcast by sending a revolutionary greeting to the Commander Mario Armijo and Commander Juan special forces units of the Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade, who this afternoon downed a C-123 aircraft belonging to the dictatorship as it was landing on the El Obrajuelo landing strip, near the city of San Miguel.

Companeros of the Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade today downed this U.S.-made aircraft. By destroying this aircraft, we are destroying a symbol of imperialist intervention. These aircraft are the ones bringing the weapons and bombs to kill our children. Just as we have destroyed this imperialist aircraft, our people, in defense of their dignity and with national sovereignty, will destroy all vestiges of foreign intervention in our homeland. There will be no screw left in place in any interventionist war machinery. The Salvadoran people rise to tell imperialism: We will not kneel; we will continue fighting until hunger, misery, illiteracy, malnutrition, injustice, and the death squads have disappeared. This is what our people fight for, and there will be no respite for the oligarchy or the invading imperialism.

Venceremos Details Operation

PA230237 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] Units from the Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade [BRAZ] of the FMLN have downed a U.S.-made C-123 airplane. Commander Mario Armijo special units downed a U.S.-made C-123 transport airplane at 1500 today as it landed on the El Obrajuelo airstrip a few kilometers from the city of San Miguel. It was destroyed by several mines placed on the El Obrajuelo airstrip by Commander Mario Armijo special units of BRAZ. Reports from El Obrajuelo indicate that the plane was completely destroyed. This C-123 transport plane was completely destroyed at 1500. It had been supplied by the U.S. Government as part of the extensive aid that Ronald Reagan is giving the Salvadoran dictatorship. Ronald Reagan will continue to grant his millions; an additional $93 million are coming. The FMLN will continue to reduce the millions to dust, along with the weapons and the planes that Reagan supplies to try to stop the just struggle of the Salvadoran people.

Local radio stations report that the C-123 airplane downed by our revolutionary forces was carrying dozens of ballot boxes and material for the elections. The San Salvador stations also report that this morning military technicians checked, as they do every day, the Obrajuelo airstrip with special electronic devices capable of detecting metal objects buried 50 centimeters deep.

Sources from the 3d Infantry Brigade indicate that they do not know how the FMLN forces were able to accomplish this successful operation, which has destroyed an expensive troop and weapon transport plane. This is the expression of people who face imperialist intervention, who face Ronald Reagan's maneuvers to try to maintain oppression in our fatherland.

FMLN Warns Pilots

PA230245 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] Attention, civilian pilots in the national territory. We issue a call to all civilian pilots to refrain from using the landing strips used by the dictatorship's army and air force. We ask civilian pilots to strictly heed this order because all landing strips used by the puppet army and air force are considered by the FMLN to be military targets. Those who do not heed this order will suffer the consequences.

Retaliatory Strafing Alleged

PA230330 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] The first reaction of Colonel Domingo Monterrosa, the butcher of El Mozote, upon seeing the completely destroyed C-123 airplane, was to order a helicopter gunship to strafe the area around the El Obrajuelo airstrip, where civilians live. We repeat. A helicopter gunship has been strafing densely populated areas on the genocidal order of Domingo Monterrosa. Domingo Monterrosa had just commented on how the Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade had disappointed him in view of what he termed their slight effectiveness. What must he be thinking now? What will Domingo Monterrosa tell the press in the face of this new failure, which is added to his long list of crushing defeats?

FMLN'S VILLALOBOS ON ARMY ACTIVITIES, ELECTIONS

PA230314 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Interview with Commander Joaquin Villalobos, member of the FMLN General Command, by an unidentified reporter; date and place not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Commander Villalobos, Colonel Domingo Monterrosa has said that the dictatorship's operation in the southeastern zone has been a complete success for the Armed Forces. He says that dozens of casualties have been inflicted on the FMLN. What can you tell us about this?

[Villalobos] In recent months, Col Monterrosa has shown much concern because he has the reputation of being an assassin. This is the result of deaths of more than 2,000 peasants, who died in the massacres carried out by troops of the Atlacatl Battalion. Because of this, he has recently dedicated himself to carrying out a great deal of individual political proselytism. The purpose of his political proselytism is to try to project to the people the image of a professional and reform-minded military man and to put some distance between himself and his record as an assassin and a massacrer, which is what he really is. To this end, he is surrounding himself with dozens of newsmen, he is distributing food among the people, and he is having his picture taken. But the part which most concerns us is that he invents clashes, casualties, and alleged successes against our forces. In almost all of his statements, Col Monterrosa says that the Armed Forces are inflicting casualties on us, and that we are carrying the bodies away.

Col Monterrosa says this often, and it is also commonly stated in the declarations and bulletins issued by COPREFA [Armed Forces Press Committee]. Any military man knows how difficult it is to withdraw from a combat area carrying dead people, especially in the case of an irregular force such as ours, which does not have many resources to transport its supplies and casualties. One would have to ask Col Monterrosa himself about his problems with removing his own casualties from the combat line, even though he has helicopters and vehicles. In this regard, then, his statement is absurd, because he can neither show the casualties that he is inflicting on us, nor the weapons that he is seizing from our combat forces. The Army must constantly invent casualties among our forces as a means of bolstering the morale of its soldiers. Every time we wipe out enemy troops in combat, the dead and their weapons remain with us. The few bodies that Col Monterrosa's forces and the Army in general sometimes show are more often than not civilians killed directly by the troops or by the indiscriminate bombings carried out by either the Air Force or the artillery.

So far, the Army has not succeeded in carrying out any important annihilation operations, after which they might display the number of casualties or the weapons seized. Perhaps the only such operation carried out during the entire war is the one in Cutumay Camones in Santa Ana, where 97 companeros fell, but this has never happened since. On the other hand, the Army, and the very troops commanded by Col Monterrosa, have sustained hundreds of annihilating blows. There are films, testimonies, prisoners, and so forth to demonstrate unequivocally what we are saying. In other words, we are not just talking for the sake of talking. Col Monterrosa is really an assassin and an incompetent military man.

The real number of casualties during this operation is as follows: 12 of our men were injured, none killed, in the clashes that took place at Miracapa Hill; one of our men was injured, none killed, during the attack on San Miguel, near the Moncagua turnoff; two of our men were killed and another was injured during the attack on the positions where Col Monterrosa himself was located, at San Luis Hill; and one of our men was killed, two injured, during our seizure of the Pan-American Highway in El Triunfo. Commander Walter, chief of one of the columns of the Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade, fell while fighting during this seizure of the Pan-American Highway. Commander Walter was captured after being very seriously wounded, rendering him unable to move. At the time, he was going to check a position and was practically alone, accompanied only by a radio operator. He was captured by the troops of the Cuscatlan Battalion and was immediately killed by Col Monterrosa's (?men). In all these operations, we sustained a total of 19 casualties -- 3 dead and the other 16 injured. This is the real result, yet the propaganda refers to 30 and 40 casualties. Well, at least now they claim to have inflicted 30 or 40 casualties, because in the past they used to claim 100, 200 casualties, and so on, and to spread even bigger lies.

On the other hand, Col Monterrosa's troops have sustained the following casualties, according to our intelligence reports: A total of 54 of their men were injured and 8 were killed in the clashes at Miracapa Hill, where one of their helicopters was also damaged; six more of their men were injured during the fighting in San Luis. Three of their men were killed and seven others, including a corporal, were injured during a clash in Cacaguatique Hill with the Ponce Battalion. They have sustained a total of 78 casualties -- 11 dead and 67 injured.

Our tactical (?viewpoint) of this operation [words indistinct] (?they were) disorganized about the central aspects of the operation undertaken. Thus, at the outset of the operation, we dislodged them from Carolina. By dealing that blow we managed to disrupt the (?original plan), which called for pushing us toward the border. We managed to hold on to a position from which we exhausted the government troops by launching continuous attacks and resisting whenever it suited us. We have already said that our position is not to defend the land -- our fundamental target is the Army.

On the basis of this idea, we moved our forces so as to have offensive capacity, and we proceeded to seize the strategic eastern roads and to attack the 3d Brigade's garrison in San Miguel and also the very position in which Col Monterrosa was located, in the town of San Luis de la Reina. All this was done simultaneously. Under these circumstances, Col Monterrosa was unable to organize a defense plan for San Miguel, the roads, or the very unit he was with. As a result of this, his troops dispersed.

As Col Monterrosa himself has explained, mobility is the basic characteristic of the war at this point. With regard to this, we have always had, and still have the advantage, despite the fact that as an irregular and revolutionary force, we are at a disadvantage when it comes to resources. However, our advantage lies with the capability of our commanders and our troops. They are also at an advantage when it comes to their morale. Another of our advantages is our huge popular support. This is why we have been able to maneuver better and are still able to do so, taking advantage of this to the hilt. This is what guarantees our victory.

[Reporter] Commander Villalobos, the dictatorship has said through the various media that the FMLN is boycotting the elections. What is your opinion about this?

[Villalobos] We have already said that for the FMLN the elections are not an important political development. We are not boycotting the elections. We are at war. There was a war in El Salvador before they came up with the idea of developing the electoral project. If the government and imperialism decided to hold an election during the war and this war hinders and obstructs the elections, that is their problem. We shall not stop the war in order to favor the imperialist project, which is a cover-up for an intervention plan.

[Reporter] Commander, the dictatorship claims that the FMLN is trying to keep thousands of people from voting during the next election. It also asserts that the turnout at the polls will be massive. What is your opinion on this?

[Villalobos] We in the FMLN don't really care if they claim that thousands will vote, that there will be long lines, and other such things. We already know that they have at their disposal many mechanisms to give this impression. They also have methods of coercion to force thousands of people to vote. We do not care what they might demonstrate to the world on election day. In analyzing the current electoral situation, the fact of the matter is that no elections will be held in dozens of towns and that hundreds of thousands of people will not vote because they are no longer supporting the enemy ranks [the Salvadoran Government], but are either under total FMLN influence, or under the dual influence of both the FMLN and the dictatorship's army. The fact of the matter here is that more than 50,000 workers went on strike recently, prior to the elections, and they repudiated the parties because none represents their aspirations and interests. This is the objective and important aspect about the meaning of the elections for the people. Anything else, all that they might do to show a massive participation in the election, is merely propaganda, reflecting artificial means and pressures, and of value only for a few days.

Speaking of the elections, they will not only be useless as a strategy against the FMLN, but they will also plunge the enemy into a profound power crisis. These are the facts of the elections. On 28 March 1982, the television cameras also showed lines of voters. This is what was shown to the world. They [the Salvadoran Government] resorted to the same artificial means, the same pressures, and claimed that this proved the people repudiated the FMLN, that this was a defeat for us.

Now, 2 years later, we have advanced much more, while the Army has been on the verge of losing the war, bolstered only by the intervention of imperialism, which now shows itself to be more clearly determined to intervene directly with its troops in our country.

This proves that we did not retreat, that they were the ones who retreated, that the war has continued to advance. This is the factual aspect, this is what becomes clear if one wants to determine whether or not the elections are a valid project for El Salvador. Our war will not end on election day. For us, that day is just another day in the war. Whoever wants to analyze the election within thecontext of our process must draw his conclusions in a few months, not on the evening of 25 March.

[Reporter] Commander Villalobos, what does the FMLN think about the candidates and the current electoral campaign?

[Villalobos] For the FMLN none of the candidates is a problem. All the candidates are the same; they represent the same pro-imperialist and reactionary ideas that run contrary to our people's interests. The candidates are really a problem for Yankee imperialists, because they are the ones who must resolve the problem of how to impose [Christian Democratic Party Candidate Jose Napoleon] Duarte or how to swallow [Nationalist Republican Alliance candidate Roberto] D'Aubuisson. The FMLN has already said all that it can say about the candidates. They are all accomplices and instruments of the imperialist policy. We don't really care who remains in the war. This war will continue whether or not the candidates and the parties participating in the current electoral campaign want it, and whether or not imperialism wants it.

Little can really be said about a group made up of politicians with a very black record as assassins, corrupt elements, and so forth. It is incredible how even the Yankees themselves and Duarte have accused D'Aubuisson of killing Msgr Romero and how in the course of the campaign they have made these charges publicly. And yet, he has been accepted as a presidential candidate and as president of the Constituent Assembly for the entire duration of his term in that office. All this shows is that both Duarte and the United States are accomplices in the crime committed against Msgr Romero. The FMLN does not play with justice; we will not let Msgr Romero's crime go unpunished. Sooner or later we will put D'Aubuisson where the people want him. In general, our people have seen that the campaign has been an insulting squandering of money and resources in the midst of our people's critical situation of poverty. We are sure that this same conclusion has been reached by all the laborers, workers, [word indistinct], peasants, and strikers, those who have been fighting for their demands, those directly affected by the situation of poverty. This has been too evident. For the FMLN, after 12 years of revolutionary war and an intense people's war, the electoral periods enable the people to see more clearly the opportunistic manner and lack of concern with which the electioneering parties view the people's needs.

For our people, the FMLN represents a new alternative. We are not politicking, and we do not define policy once every 5 years. Our struggle and the sacrifices made by our militants are constant. This is how we managed to create the most powerful mass movement in the history of El Salvador. This is also how we have been able to form a strong revolutionary army, which today keeps the dictatorship's elements in check. It is for this reason that each day, through constant and systematic work, the people are gradually organizing with us and becoming the makers of their own destiny. This is the mentality of our militants and the purpose of our revolutionary work. In this manner we represent a powerful and indestructible force that cannot be defeated even through intervention, much less with an electoral farce.

[Reporter] Commander Villalobos, the dictatorship claims that the FMLN is already carrying out actions against the people and the voters and will continue to do so. What could you tell us about this?

[Villalobos] The FMLN has never attacked the civilian population. On the contrary, we have always worked to protect them from the Army bombings and massacres.

On hundreds of occasions the FMLN has protected the families of peasants and workers and has made them withdraw in organized fashion in order to prevent slaughters during the army cleanup operations. We FMLN members have always been most careful not to injure or damage civilian property or lives during our military operations. This will continue to be done because we are a people's army and we respect the people. However, military actions against enemy positions and sabotage will continue to be carried out today, tomorrow, and always, as long as the war continues. The electoral period is no exception. Wherever there is an enemy, there can be fighting before, during, and after the elections.

[Reporter] Commander Joaquin Villalobos, what do you think about U.S. imperialism's statements that the concentration of ships and men in the Central American region is to stop the FMLN from boycotting the upcoming elections?

[Villalobos] Apparently the U.S. Administration is concerned about the outcome of these elections, and in order to guarantee them has carried out a plan to intimidate us. According to an intelligence report in our hands, this is the first phase of their plans for direct intervention in El Salvador with their troops. They talk clearly about hundreds of espionage flights, U.S. combat airplanes which would fly over our positions in the controlled zones, about the possibility of massive naval and air attacks on our positions, and about the presence of 2,000 U.S. soldiers who would participate in maneuvers at the Salvadoran-Honduran border. All this is described as a demonstration of force so that we see it as a threat of intervention in case we act to disrupt the elections. Reportedly, and based on the Reagan administration's evaluations, we were expected to react fearfully to the Yankee pressure, respecting the electoral events to the utmost, and offering a truce because we fear the intervention.

This was the Reagan administration's idea, and it corresponds to the U.S. Government's warmongering policy. In the face of blackmail and pressure, the U.S. Administration should understand something clearly: We do not fear its policy of blackmail and arrogance. If its presence and pressure were intended to intimidate us, the results were completely the opposite. For us, it is a matter of principle to respond to a provocation by strongly asserting that we do not accept blackmail, pressure, or threats.

If they decided to approach our borders just to show the world that they are capable of intimidating us, we -- before our people and the dignity of Latin America -- are obliged to prove that they are not capable of doing so. The U.S. Administration's current aggressive and warmongering policy can be defeated only if we prove that they are not capable of achieving victories through blackmail and pressure. The correct reply to the Reagan administration's foreign policy is being given by the Lebanese patriots. If necessary, it will find a like reply in El Salvador. If the Reagan administration continues its invasion threats, it must clearly understand that we will not kneel to avoid it. We are ready to face and to defeat intervention if they decide to carry it out. The U.S. advisers and specialists should not err in their evaluations. They should not evaluate us or our forces on the basis of our logistics or the quality of our weapons compared to what they have. They should base their conclusions on our morale and spirit, forged by thousands of armed patriots who are strongly supported by their people and are not ready to surrender; all those who are trying to overpower us will pay dearly for this.

PRTC-FMLN ORGANIZATION CONDEMNS ELECTIONS

PA220253 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 21 Mar 84 p 47

[Text] The PRTC [Revolutionary Party of Farmworkers]-FMLN today seized four radio stations in order to play a recording that was later sent to this newspaper for publication.

The recording says, among other things, that the elections are not a realistic solution to the Salvadoran people's needs, because none of the parties participating represent the people's interests. The recording repeats the words of Msgr Romero -- the martyred archbishop, to whom the PRTC is paying homage, along with other victims -- about ending bloodshed. It also mentions the 1977 electoral fraud and repeats that the Salvadoran people are tired of electoral farces.

The recording carries Msgr Romero's appeal to the Army and to his Salvadoran brothers to abide by the law of God, which says you shall not kill, as well as his statement that no one is compelled to obey immoral orders. The recording adds that the FMLN is advancing to final victory and condemns U.S. imperialism for its actions and for increasing military aid. In another portion, the FMLN denounces the repression unleashed against the people and the presence of foreign troops and strongly criticizes the death squads and the oligarchy.

VENCEREMOS REPORTS REBEL MILITARY ACTIVITY

Claims Victory in San Vicente

PA222321 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Our people have defeated the costly and gigantic operation launched by the dictatorship in the northeast supported by the Honduran Army's battalions and espionage flights by U.S. airplanes. Our people gave them a beating in the northeast, defeating U.S. imperialist tactics and Domingo Monterrosa, who has slaughtered children. We now receive information from the Anastasio Aquino Paracentral Front about our people and army defeating the enemy. This is the information which has arrived from San Vicente Department:

On the morning of Tuesday, 20 March, specialists of the 5th Infantry Brigade and the Cazadores, Jiboa, and (Canas) Battalions -- supported by artillery -- were deployed from San Vicente to the zones controlled by the FMLN in the northern part of this department. At 0830 an enemy column that was advancing toward El Paraiso and Santa Elena clashed with the vanguard units of our (Rafael Aguinada Carranza) Battalion, and a fierce clash ensued involving rifle fire, 90-mm cannon, and 81-mm mortars. Later, when the enemy's reinforcements had already suffered many casualties and were trapped on the battlefield, a push-pull airplane fired rockets against our positions without results; this increased the enemy's demoralization.

During the afternoon hours, when the government forces' situation was becoming desperate, other groups tried to advance toward La Haciendita, (Managua), and (Ayalitas). They were also stopped by fierce fighting and, in some sectors, forced to withdraw hastily.

The fierce clashes lasted for more than 8 hours and the members of the (Rafael Aguinada Carranza) Battalion dealt overwhelming blows, trapped, and demoralized the dictatorship's forces.

The information coming from San Vicente Department reveals that, during the 20 March clashes, the cowardly dictatorship and the puppet army could not advance a single meter toward their goal. In order to withdraw from the trap, the members of the Jiboa Battalion had to be helped by the (Canas) Battalion and heavy artillery and Air Force fire. The enemy withdrew without achieving its goal. Our forces inflicted 6 dead and 12 wounded on the dictatorship's forces, which were defeated in San Vicente Department.

Warns Drivers of Mined Roads

PA230259 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] Attention transporters and drivers throughout the country: We ask you to listen to Radio Venceremos and to follow the instructions that we will be issuing at the appropriate time about not driving on the country's roads. Our military units are operating on the roads, which will be mined to prevent passage of the dictatorship's troops.

We repeat: Our military units are operating on the roads, which will be mined to prevent passage of the dictatorship's troops. We ask the transporters and drivers not to try to remove barricades or other obstacles that they find on the roads because they will contain mines. Transporters and drivers should heed the calls that Radio Venceremos will be issuing about not driving on the roads, which will be mined to prevent passage of the dictatorship's forces now that our people are intensifying their fight against oppression and U.S. intervention.

CORRECTION TO FMLN CLAIMS FORCES CONFRONT TROOPS

The following corrections pertain to the item headlined "FMLN Claims Forces Confronting Troops at Border," published on page P 3 of the 4 March Latin America DAILY REPORT:

Fourth paragraph, line two should read: ...forces from the Luis Diaz detachment attacked the Atlacatl Battalion in Cuidad Barrios, as well as (Battalion 11), inflicting eight casualties, including dead and wounded, on the enemy units. Our FMLN Forces ... (supplying indistinct words and rewording)

Fourth paragraph, last line should read: ...San Miguel Departments.

Following the imperialist... (deleting editorial notation)

GUATEMALA

ARMY REPORTS GUERRILLA AMBUSH, CASUALTIES

PA230202 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0050 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] It was reported today that the Guatemalan Air Force reinforced the Army's activities in the zone of Chicacao, Suchitepequez Department, some 140 km southwest of Guatemala City. The military operation to comb the area was a reaction to a guerrilla commando ambush of a military patrol with Claymore mines, which killed 1 officer and 10 soldiers, according to an Army bulletin and information released by the Armed Forces spokesman, Colonel Edgar Djalma Dominquez. There is as yet no report on the results of the military offensive to seek the rebels, who took the military patrol's ammunition and other equipment.

Col Djalma Dominguez said that the guerrilla action was carried out "to get publicity," and said that the Army admits to having suffered a heavy blow. He added that the rebels might belong to the self-styled Revolutionary Organization of the People in Arms, ORPA. He added that the meeting held last night by military commanders and the head of state, General Oscar Mejia Victores, was a normal work meeting to discuss routine matters.

HONDURAS

FUSEP DENIES INVOLVEMENT IN 2 'DISAPPEARANCES'

PA222133 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1145 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Communique released by the General Headquarters of the Public Security Force in Tegucigalpa on 21 March]

[Text] The General Headquarters of the Public Security Force [FUSEP] informs the citizenry that no branch of this police institution has arrested or is holding in jail citizens (Gustavo Morales Funes), assistant director of the National Children's Board [PANI], or (Rolando Vindel Gonzalez), president of the Union of Workers of the National Electric Power Enterprise [Sindicato de Trabajadores de la Empresa Nacional de Energia Electrica -- STENEE]. It asks the relatives of both of these persons, the institutions at which they work, and the people at large to have confidence that the FUSEP is making every effort to investigate their disappearances, to establish their whereabouts, and to try those responsible for this crime, which has all the earmarks of a kidnapping.

NICARAGUAN AMBASSADOR DENIES REMOVAL OF MARKERS

PA221247 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 21 Mar 84 p 8

[Text] Tegucigalpa -- The Nicaraguan Ambassador in Tegucigalpa, Edwin Zablah, yesterday said that "we are not kids," and denied that the border markers between Honduras and Nicaragua had been moved. Zablah said that as of yesterday the Sandinist Government had not replied to the Honduran protest note on the alleged relocation of the markers. "This is the most accurately demarcated border in Central America," Zablah noted, adding that "the instruments are filed at the International Court of Justice and at other international organizations." "What would we gain by moving the markers?" he stressed, and added: "Who would do such a thing, and for what reason?" "We would be acting like kids if we relocated the markers, since we know that there are legal documents establishing the exact location where they should be," he said.

According to the Honduran foreign minister, the border markers were moved from their positions between El Divisadero and El Higo, in El Espino jurisdiction, Choluteca Department. Despite his statement, Ambassador Zablah promised that Nicaraguans "will try to solve the problems." "I don't know who would do such a thing, and what would be the intentions behind this action," he said. "We might have a good idea of who did it, and the intentions behind this action," he said to himself, in an apparant allusion to the counterrevolutionaries. Asked if he meant that the Nicaraguan Democratic Forces were implicated in this action, he declined comment.

NICARAGUA

HUGO TORRES DISCUSSES U.S. MILITARY ROLE IN C.A.

PA222231 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] Nicaragua is facing an extremely grave situation in view of what seems to be the U.S. Government's decision to intervene militarily in Central America, Brigade Commander Hugo Torres said this morning.

At a news conference at the Defense Ministry, which has just ended, the EPS [Sandinist People's Army] officer disclosed a number of facts, stressing concern over the heavy war machinery that has been mobilized toward the region by the Pentagon. Thus, he said, it is creating the conditions for an invasion of a country, in this case Nicaragua, in view of the Reagan administration's decision to combat the Sandinist people's revolution until its eradication if possible.

The EPS officer said that a good part of the U.S. Army's most elite troops and naval forces have been concentrated in Honduras. In recent months, high-ranking officers of the U.S. Armed Forces have visited Honduras. The latest to visit was by the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The Honduran Army has also been supplied with the most modern weapons and the most advanced combat planes. Congress refused to grant permission to supply the Honduran Air Force with F-5 airplanes for fear Nicaragua would request Soviet MIG planes for its defense.

All this information was supplied to journalists as part of the report on the activities of the counterrevolutionary task forces that have infiltrated from Honduras to attack Nicaraguan towns and kidnap and kill civilians. In one of these incursions, 16 militiamen were killed in a sector of Jinotega Department, near San Sebastian de Yali. Civilians were also kidnapped. The counterrevolutionary task forces sustained 22 dead and about 3 times that many wounded.

Torres added that the counterrevolutionary forces have been supplied with airplanes and helicopter gunships with which they have been carrying out attacks along the Pacific coast, against San Juan del Sur, Masachapa, Puerto Sandino, Corinto, Potosi, and points along the Atlantic coast. It is worrisome that this unusual increase in aggression is taking place during electoral processes in El Salvador, Nicaragua, and the United States, when the U.S. leaders are careful about their domestic and foreign image and despite the big diplomatic offensive undertaken by the revolutionary Government of Nicaragua. This offensive has led to great international solidarity with our people and country. Of course, if an aggressive escalation and invasion of Nicaragua were to take place, it would exact a very high military and political cost from the U.S. Government, its people, and obviously the Central American peoples.

The member of the EPS staff called on the U.S. people and the world community to be alert to the activities of the U.S. Army in Central America, particularly against Nicaragua. He warned that the Nicaraguan people will respond by resisting any type of aggression.

REAGAN 'PIRACY,' MINING OF PORTS DEPLORED

PA221707 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 22 Mar 84

["Beyond the News Reports" feature: "Reagan's Policy Against Nicaragua Threatens World Peace"]

[Text] The war policy that the Reagan administration is waging against Nicaragua every day threatens to cause a grave situation not only in the region, but in the whole world. And here is a terrible fact: The U.S. people do not realize this. It is as if not only the U.S. President and congressmen, but also intellectuals, professors, academicians, and journalists have lost touch with reality. We are fully aware of what we are saying. There is no other explanation for the almost total apathy that exists in that country, except for a minority that is aware of what is happening in Nicaragua.

We are practically at war with the United States, and this is not a covert war as some people say, but a declared war. What other type of war could this be when Congress itself approves funds to wage war on Nicaragua? By approving funds to wage war on us, the U.S. Congress has formally declared war, so we should not fool ourselves about this.

And there is the matter of the mines. For the purpose of making clear the gravity of this situation let me ask: What would happen if Nicaragua were to mine U.S. ports? We don't have the resources, of course, but if we had them we would have every right to do it as a defensive response to shameless aggression.

There is something that is even more serious, something that people in the United States and in Western Europe either don't realize or don't give much thought to. We are referring to the threat to international navigation and trade. The blockade against Nicaragua and the mining of its ports harms not only our territorial integrity, it also violates the right of free world navigation and trade. Therefore, the United States is also at war with all the countries having trade relations with us. Three ships have been attacked. These ships belong to the countries that compose the Caribbean Multinational Shipping Line, the Netherlands, and the Soviet Union. There is an obvious question: What right does the United States have to prevent international navigation and commerce in any part of the world, and specifically in Nicaragua? This is a very grave and serious situation because the United States is imposing the law of piracy at the international level. Will the world permit such an abuse? If the establishing of such a precedent is allowed, not only Nicaragua, but the entire world will be hurt because it would mean that a powerful nation can prevent free international navigation.

If the United States is allowed to mine Nicaragua's ports with impunity, they could also do it in Le Havre, Rotterdam, and the Persian Gulf. Why not? This is a serious matter that merits careful consideration by all the countries. If this Reaganist-type piracy is not stopped, we all will suffer the consequences of such a heartless policy.

CALDERON: U.S. SHIP MAY HAVE ROLE IN MINING PORT

PA221935 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1818 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Managua, 22 Mar (DPA) -- A U.S. frigate that was positioned 10 miles off the coast of Puerto Sandino on Nicaragua's Pacific coast, might have had a role in the mining of the area, the daily BARRICADA, voice of the ruling FSLN, today reported. The newspaper contains an interview with Commander Manuel Calderon, deputy chief of the state security, which functions under the Interior Ministry. Calderon says that the frigate remained near the Nicaraguan coast for over 12 hours and that two light craft and one helicopter took off from it. The commander said that "we cannot really say who planted the mine" and added that he could not specify whether it was planted by divers working from a boat or released from a helicopter. Calderon added that no ships had entered the Port of Sandino between the incursion of the boat [not further identified] and the incident with the Soviet tanker Lugansk 3 days ago.

The hull of the Soviet vessel, which was carrying 250,000 barrels of crude, was damaged, but because it did not leak, the tanker was able to reach safety and to be unloaded. The five crew members who were injured were said to be in stable condition last evening. The fact that the explosion affected a merchant vessel underscores the increasing danger that ships sailing off Nicaraguan coasts are facing, Junta Coordinator Daniel Ortega has commented.

He added that the Nicaraguan Government sees actions of this nature as "state terrorism" which is being carried out by President Ronald Reagan's administration against Nicaragua as part of the plan to destroy the Sandinist revolution that came to power in 1979. The Sandinists have also accused the U.S. Government of providing $80 million to the rebels based in Honduras and Costa Rica during the past several years.

SOVIET AMBASSADOR CITED ON MINE EXPLOSION

PA221509 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Soviet Ambassador to Managua German Shlyapnikov has characterized the explosion that damaged the Soviet tanker Lugansk as an act of pillage and piracy. The tanker was damaged after CIA agents mined Puerto Sandino. Five sailors were wounded as a result of the explosion. They are now out of danger. The diplomat yesterday said he is holding the U.S. Government responsible for this criminal event. He noted that no other country could be held responsible because the U.S. Administration is openly supporting the contras. This type of action is in support of efforts aimed at overthrowing the Nicaraguan people's revolution. Ambassador Shlyapnikov said that this event has served to consolidate the friendship that exists -- regardless of who likes or dislikes it -- between the Soviet Union and the Nicaraguan Government and people, who will continue to receive all types of support from the Soviet people.

NUNEZ DISCUSSES PARTIES' WITHDRAWAL FROM COUNCIL

PA220153 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] Commander of the Revolution Carlos Nunez, president of the State Council, has commented on the partial withdrawal by some political parties from the State Council:

[Begin Nunez recording] I don't believe that the electoral process has been weakened by the withdrawal of some parties. They have a right to do this. It is up to them to decide whether or not they will return to the State Council and whether they will participate in the electoral process. I think that by 1985, when all the political forces will have been defined, the parties will acquire greater maturity and responsibility regarding their participation in the transformations. The parties make their own decisions, and I believe some of them will be present at the fifth period of State Council sessions. [end recording]

LA PRENSA NOT PUBLISHED TO PROTEST CENSORSHIP

PA230159 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0018 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] Managua, 22 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- The opposition newspaper LA PRENSA of Managua was not published this afternoon because of censorship problems, Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, codirector of the evening newspaper, has announced. He indicated that the newspaper decided not to publish this afternoon's edition in protest, because the Directorate of Communications Media of the Government, which is in charge of censorship, prohibited the publication of material which the newspaper staff deemed "the most important news of the day." ACAN-EFE has learned that this was the fourth time this year that the newspaper LA PRENSA was not published because of censorship.

One of the items banned by the government was the speech delivered today by Enrique Bolanos, president of the Higher Council of Private Enterprise (COSEP).

The business leader maintained that that organization had waged a struggle over the past few years "to prevent the private sector from being wiped out and, above all, in order not to lose liberty altogether." Chamorro Barrios indicated that this front-page material not permitted by the government could not be "filled in with black or white space, because the Sandinists do nor permit this either." LA PRENSA currently publishes 50,000 copies daily.

Up until 1 week ago it had a circulation of 62,000 copies in the country, but this was reduced after the newspaper increased its price from 3 to 5 cordobas (30 to 50 cents at the offical rate of 10 to 1). Chamorro Barrios recalled that since 15 March 1982, when press censorship was imposed here, the newspaper has not published on 24 occasions due to censorship problems. During this period LA PRENSA has been closed twice for periods of 24 hours.

MILITIAS INFLICT 28 CASUALTIES ON CONTRAS

PA220227 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] The People's Militias have given no respite to the Somozist bands. Since 10 March, when the task forces entered through San Fernando, a border town near Ocotal, the Somozists have suffered more than 28 casualties. In a recent clash with the counterrevolutionaries south of Ciudad Antigua the counterrevolutionaries sustained hard blows and had to flee toward Honduras, leaving destruction and death in their wake. Lieutenant Reineiro Tijerino explained that in Region No 1 in Nueva Segovia the counterrevolutionaries face territorially organized militias who know the area like the backs of their hands. These men don't earn a salary; instead they are defending the land they love. The militia troops are made up of peasants who know where the Somozist leaders are hiding in the Nueva Segovia mountains. Tijerino said that the Somozists have been dislodged from sectors of the hills of (Moriscallan), El Salto, and Terrero Grande.

[Begin Tijerino recording] First of all, the counterrevolutionaries are on the run. They don't want to fight us. Perhaps they don't want to use their ammunition because they are waiting to coordinate some actions with other contras here. As a result, we are pursuing them; so far we have not had any big battles. We have just had small clashes with those who have remained in this area [words indistinct]. Three counter-revolutionaries were killed yesterday by artillery. Some counterrevolutionaries were also wounded. [end recording]

REBELS REPORT RECENT MILITARY ACTIVITY

ARDE Attacks EPS Post

PA221610 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 2300 GMT 21 Mar 84

[War Bulletin No 198 released by the General Command of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, Armed Forces, in Sarapiqui, Rio San Juan Department, "free territory of Nicaragua," on 20 March 1984]

[Text] The General Command of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, Armed Forces reports to the Nicaraguan people and to the free peoples of the world:

The (Commander Francisco Rodriguez Rodriguez) Column, which is part of the (Liebre) Unit and is commanded by Companero Pantera, attacked the Pueblo Nuevo No 2 military post in Rio San Juan Department on 17 March at 1700 and inflicted six dead and several wounded to the pro-Soviet EPS [Sandinist People's Army]. For our part, we report three casualties [words indistinct]: Companeros Peron and [word indistinct] and the woman-combatant Elizabeth.

On 18 March at 1200 the Franscisco Loy Column, which is part of the (Segoviano) Unit and is commanded by Companero Rienda, attacked a patrol of the interventionist army in Rio Maiz, Punta Gorda Jurisdiction, inflicting two dead and four wounded on the enemy.

Without totalitarianism or a return to the past!

FDN: Sandinists Suffer Losses

PA230032 San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 22 Mar 84 p 1

[Text] An FDN [Nicaraguan Democratic Force] spokesman has reported that the Sandinist Army recently suffered serious defeats in northern Nicaragua. The clashes between rebel forces and government troops have generalized to the extent that the Sandinist regime has canceled premits allowing travel to combat areas, which are issued to the international news media.

Fierce clashes have been taking place in El Chaguiton and Buena Vista, in Jinotega and Nueva Segovia Departments, where commandos of the "Julio Meza Task Force," led by Commander "Honda," inflicted hundreds of casualties on the government forces. The occurred on 19-20 March. The rebel station Radio 15 September reported that another Sandinist battalion has been routed from its position in Jinotega. The sources added that, after fighting for 1 hour near Boca de Quininowas, 65 km from Jinotega, troops of the 80-11 Battalion were forced to flee in disarray. "Sandinist casualties are heavy, and the dead include Sandinist Captain Francisco Ducay Pabon," the rebels said.

In another sector of Nicaragua, in Nueva Segovia, Madriz, and Esteli Departments, the rebels reported fierce clashes in the communities of La Laguneta, Matapalos, La Pava, El Chorro, El Moro, San Jose, and El Chaguite. Anti-Sandinist rebels have asserted that they have recovered large quantities of war materiel from these clashes. The clandestine radio said that Sandinist troops are indiscriminately bombing peasant towns in all these sectors of the country, "massacring women, old people and children."

It has also been reported that a military convoy from the Managua's Marxist regime was ambused at 0830 on 20 March by rebel commandos at El Guabo on the highway leading to Siuna, 70 km northeast of Jinotega. Two Sandinist trucks were taking war materiel and supplies to the government troops. "The 17 soldeirs who were guarding the Sandinist military convoy were killed in the ambush." The anti-Sandinists reported the death of commando member "Evaristo," who reportedly offered his life for Nicaragua's freedom.

PRC DELEGATION ARRIVES TO SIGN PROTOCOL

FL221231 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] A PRC trade delegation, headed by Wang Pinqing, assistant minister of foreign economic relations and trade, has arrived in this capital to sign the 1984 bilateral trade protocol.

COOPERATION AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH MEXICO

FL221121 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] A cooperation agreement between Mexico and Cuba in the spheres of social security and medical services was signed in this capital by a delegation visiting our country. The Mexican delegation also signed an agreement dealing with sports with the National Institute of Sports, Physical Education, and Recreation.

The mutual cooperation protocol was signed by Lic Ricardo Garcia Sainz, president of the Mexican Social Security Institute; Joaquin Benavides, minister president of the Cuban State Committee for Labor and Social Security; and Public Health Vice Minister Dr Julio Tejas.

DR ALVAREZ CAMBRAS LEADS DELEGATION TO IRAQ

FL221612 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1523 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Iraq President Saddam Husayn at-Tikriti has received Dr Rodrigo Alvarez Cambras, professor and director of the Frank Pais Orthopedic Hospital, who is leading a medical delegation that is visiting that Middle Eastern nation. During their meeting the men emphasized the ties of friendship that unite the Cuban and Iraqi peoples and the development of bilateral cooperation. Alvarez Cambras traveled to Iraq to enhance cooperation in the field of health.

During his stay in Iraq, Dr Alvarez Cambras addressed medical conferences, at which he demonstrated his personal method of setting fractures externally and performed surgical operations with Iraqi surgical teams.

PRESS, PROPAGANDA, MEDIA WORKERS APPRAISED

FL221648 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1512 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Jacinto Viamontes, secretary general of the National Cultural Workers Trade Union, in a summary of last year's emulation plenum of the propaganda, press, and news agencies media sector, which was held in Havana, has stated:

The year 1983 was a period of intense work and significant achievements in our country and in this context our revolutionary press and propaganda media units, in a reliable manner, won a battle reflecting our faithful, profound, and partisan principles and values.

It was also announced at the meeting that 13 centers for this type of work attained vanguard status in the 1983 emulation, which was dedicated to the 15th CTC [Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions] conference.

SUGAR WORKERS TO REPORT DIRECTLY TO POLITBURO

FL230035 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] For the first time in the history of the Cuban labor movement a union will report directly to the Central Committee's Politburo on its activities. This responsibility has fallen on the sugar industry workers, who will render accounts about their work later this year. In making this announcement, Luis Martell Rosas, member of the Central Committee and secretary general of the National Sugar Industry Workers Union, noted that this is a high honor for the men and women of that sector.

During the last meeting of the union's National Committee held in Guantanamo, measures were approved to hold discussion with the rank and file in order to prepare a report including all the activities of the sector. Martell Rosas said that this plan will be analyzed in the 14 provinces and for this reason the responses will be immediate.

REPORTAGE ON SOVIET TANKER INCIDENT IN NICARAGUA

Nicaragua Issues Statement

PA220047 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] The Nicaraguan Government has stated that mercenaries at the service of the United States placed the mine that damaged a Soviet oil ship and wounded five of her crewmen at the entrance to the Pacific coast port of Sandino, 70 km east of Managua.

According to a Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry statement, the Soviet ship Lugansk, which was carrying oil, suffered substantial damage as it passed near buoy No 1, but was still able to dock. It is now unloading.

According to the statement, this action is in addition to other actions that have been carried out in the Nicaraguan ports of Bluefields and Corinto. The statement deplores the fact that this time the victims of the aggressive and senseless U.S. Government policy are Soviet sailors, while Netherlands and Central American sailors were previous victims. In addition, the Nicaraguan Government stressed the danger to international navigation along Central American coasts from the indiscriminate placement of mines and explosive charges in the area, which took place on Washington's instructions.

After reiterating its willingness to continue struggling for peace in the area, the Sandinist Government again asked the international community to supply Nicaragua with the technical and military means necessary to defend itself in view of the terrorism unleashed by Ronald Reagan's administration.

In another development, Nicaraguan Defense Minister Commander Humberto Ortega charged that several thousand armed men are currently exerting pressure on his country and are trying to implement the North American government's plans to occupy part of Nicaraguan territory.

Commander Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Nicaraguan Government, stated on arrival in Mexico City that the peoples and governments of the world cannot remain indifferent to the dramatic situation faced by Nicaragua, which is undergoing direct and open attacks by the United States. Daniel Ortega is on a 2-day visit to Mexico City, where he will confer with Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid and Mexican Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda on the Central American situation.

You will now hear a report by (Nestor Nunez), our special correspondent in Managua:

[Begin (Nunez) relay] The normal activities of Nicaraguans were interrupted suddenly Tuesday afternoon when the Sandinist television system and the Nicaraguan radio stations interrupted their broadcasts to announce that a Soviet merchant ship had hit a mine planted by counterrevolutionary groups when it entered the western Port of Sandino. The Soviet oil tanker -- several of whose crewmen were injured -- was on its way to Nicaragua on a peaceful mission to deliver a substantial shipment of oil to this nation when it was blocked, assailed, and besieged by the results of North American imperialism.

The initial report on this brutal attack, which violates international navigation and trade laws, was followed by a summary of statements made in Managua Tuesday afternoon by Nicaraguan Defense Minister Humberto Ortega, in which he stated that Central America is facing one of the most crucial moments in its history, during which a North American invasion of El Salvador and Nicaragua appears imminent. Ortega noted that over 7,000 counterrevolutionaries supported by Washington are operating against the Sandinist revolution from bases in Honduras and Costa Rica.

According to local commentators, these latest developments, which occur just a few days before the electoral farce organized by the United States and the Salvadoran regime, and which are in addition to an increased North American military presence in the area, make the crisis in Central America even more tense and dangerous and bring even closer the threat of imperialist military action.

Meanwhile, the Nicaraguan people continue to strengthen their defense and develop their economy despite the difficult conditions imposed on them by the Reagan administration and its regional lackeys. For those of us who visited this Central American nation a little less than a year ago, the changes that have taken place in that space of time are noteworthy. An improvement in the organization and efficiency of economic matters can be seen in an increase in the people's standard of living, particularly in the education and health fields. For example, the media have announced the opening of a new school year and the delivery, free of charge, of school supplies to children. They are also urging the population to vaccinate their children against polio during a nationwide campaign that will begin on the 6th [month not specified]. The Sandinist revolution is demonstrating that a strong people can face even the most cruel enemy and still build a more promising future for themselves.

This has been a direct report from Managua, the Nicaraguan capital, by this special Radio Havana, Cuba, correspondent, (Nestor Nunez). [end relay]

Ortega Shortens Mexican Visit

PA220437 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, today cut short his visit to Mexico and returned to Managua because of the worsening situation in his country after a Soviet oil tanker hit a mine placed in Puerto Sandino by counterrevolutionary forces financed, armed, and directed by the CIA.

Ortega met with Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid this morning. They discussed the growing U.S. intervention in Central America and the poorly disguised plans for a direct intervention in El Salvador and Nicaragua. Daniel Ortega asked President De la Madrid to see if the Contadora Group, of which Mexico is a member, can find a prompt solution to U.S. interventionist escalation. Daniel Ortega stated that Nicaragua is not alone in this struggle against U.S. aggression.

In statements to the Mexican newspaper EXCELSIOR, Ortega suggested that the Contadora Group be broadened to become an organization of American states, without the participation of the United States. In an editorial, EXCELSIOR says that Daniel Ortega's suggestion is practical and realistic, because for years the continent had been in need of such an instrument, free of U.S. political and economic patronage.

Holds Press Conference

PA222127 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Commander Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Nicaraguan Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, said on his return to Managua that when he visited Mexico he presented specific proposals for the Contadora Group to make special efforts to contain the escalation of U.S. aggression in Central America. During a press conference, Daniel Ortega stressed that only the suspension of the aggressive U.S. policy can create favorable conditions for continuing the process of dialogue and negotiation being promoted by the Contadora Group.

The Nicaraguan leader said that the worsening situation in Central America demands action from the international community. For this reason, he said, nicaragua is sending messages to various Latin American and European governments in which it lists the region's problems in detail.

At another point in the press conference, Ortega recounted the most recent acts of aggression against Nicaragua. He said that this strategy was not devised by the counterrevolutionaries, but by the U.S. Government as a pretext for criminal actions against the Nicaraguan people.

Special Units Search for Mines

PA220458 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Specialized Nicaraguan units are combing the sea in the Puerto Sandino to try to locate the mines planted in the area by terrorists who are working for the CIA. Commander Manuel Calderon, State Security General Directorate deputy chief, visited the port where a Soviet oil tanker hit a mine on Tuesday. The explosion slightly damaged the ship and injured five members of its crew.

Security Official Cited

FL221315 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Manuel Calderon, deputy chief of Nicaragua's General Directorate for State Security, has stated that the investigation of what occurred in Puerto Sandino -- explosion of a mine damaging the Soviet tanker Lugansk -- is not yet complete.

Although an investigation of the incident is still under way, the fact is that the mining was carried out by North Americans, inasmuch as 10 days ago and 10 miles away from the Nicaraguan coast, a U.S. warship was observed in the area. On more than one occasion two planes and one helicopter were seen taking off from that warship and overflying Puerto Sandino, Calderon said. The Reagan administration and its servants are trying to isolate the Nicaraguan Republic by tightening up the economic blockade to impede the arrival of aid to Sandino's fatherland, Calderon noted.

Implicates U.S.

PA222128 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Commander Manuel Calderon, deputy chief of Nicaragua's General Directorate for State Security, has said that a U.S. warship may have been involved in planting the mines that damaged a Soviet ship and left five crewmen injured in Puerto Sandino. Manuel Calderon said that 2 days before the Soviet ship Lugansk arrived, a U.S. frigate anchored some 10 miles outside Puerto Sandino.

According to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, the mines were planted in Nicaraguan ports by CIA-trained commandos, and groups imported from the United States by the Salvadoran regime provided logistical support for the operation. The Canadian station said that it obtained its information from counterrevolutionaries operating from Costa Rica.

The mines are very modern and are identical to those used by the U.S. Armed Forces.

USSR Envoy Scores U.S.

FL222254 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1914 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] The Soviet ambassador to Nicaragua, German Shlyapnikov, said the U.S. Government is threatening world peace and detente by mining this Central American country's ports and deploying missiles in Europe. In his statement to the daily newspaper BARRICADA, the diplomat added that there are no limits to Washington's desire to dominate and exploit. He stated that it is everyone's duty to struggle against the American policy of aggression.

He immediately stressed the strong reaction of his country to the explosion of a mine in Puerto Sandino that had been laid on CIA orders. The mine damaged the Soviet tanker Lugansk and wounded five crewmen. The Soviet ambassador to Nicaragua warned that his country knows how to react to any attempt to violate its sacred right to have relations with the Sandinist people and government.

Journalists Comment

FL222154 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1250 GMT 22 Mar 84

[International commentary by PRENSA LATINA correspondents Irma Caceres and Javier Rodriguez, during the "Revista de la Manana" program -- live]

[Excerpts] [Caceres] Good morning, television viewers. This morning we will be discussing new U.S. activities in Central America. At the present time the United States is carrying out a terrorist policy and making it state policy.

[Rodriguez] Irma, I believe that the last reports we have had on the situation confirm your assertions. As our viewers know, a Soviet ship was damaged by one of the mines placed by CIA-backed Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries in Nicaraguan ports, in this case in Puerto Sandino where five sailors were injured. The incident brought a strong protest from the Soviet Union because it openly denied the freedom of international marine transportation. This is a new arbitrary act which the United States is using in its aggressive policy toward Central America.

[Caceres] What the United States is trying to do is to intimidate sailors and cargo ships which go to Nicaragua as part of its economic blockade policy. This direct action against Nicaragua is one of the most criminal of activities and has been condemned internationally because it was carried out against Panamanian and Dutch cargo ships that were carrying general cargo and food, and a Soviet oil tanker.

[Rodriguez] The United States is putting its most sophisticated technology at the disposal of destabilizing forces, against a people and a nation which is simply looking for its own destiny. I think, Irma, that we should tie this in with the commotion the U.S. media has made on several Soviet ships navigating in the Caribbean. There have been many cables on this matter suggesting that this completely normal occurrence -- the presence of Soviet ships in the area -- is in reality a threat to U.S. security. We are now accustomed to this claim used by the United States to confuse relations and to worsen the already critical international and Central American situation.

What is defintely taking place is a well thought out publicity campaign to increase tensions in the region. The growing U.S. military presence is an obvious show of strength, as its own media describes it, to take advantage of any possibility presented by the situation in El Salvador to directly intervene in Central America.

[Caceres] We must not forget that the U.S. people are submerged in and manipulated by U.S. propaganda. And that President Ronald Reagan also needs this propaganda at a time when the presidential campaigns are taking on critical undertones. We cannot forget the foreign policy failures this administration has had and which impact directly on the amount of support each candidate will have during the campaign.

To summarize, the United States is manipulating the situation in Central America, and is completely responsible for it. I believe that we can also view this manipulation as part of its aggressive policy, a policy to destabilize Central America, and we can say that this manipulation technique is being used in the U.S. presidential campaign.

MOVEMENT OF U.S. SHIPS TO CARIBBEAN NOTED

FL221402 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] It has been reported in Washington that the cruiser Virginia and the destroyer Mahan, both carrying guided missiles, have been sent to the Caribbean off the coast of Central America. The U.S. ship movement has been interpreted by observers as a demonstration of force before the presidential elections in El Salvador.

SALVADORAN REBEL STATION ON ARRIVAL OF U.S. SHIP

PA222132 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Radio Farabundo Marti has reported that the U.S. aircraft carrier John F. Kennedy arrived on El Salvador's Pacific Coast to bomb portions of Salvadoran territory that are under guerrilla control. The radio station stated that possible targets of the planes carried on the John F. Kennedy include extensive areas in Chalatenango, Morazan, San Miguel, San Vicente, and Cabanas Departments and in the Guazapa region.

The clandestine radio station said that the United States intends to use that aircraft carrier, which is deployed in the Pacific, and its counterpart, the America, stationed off the Honduran coast, to establish a naval cordon around Central America in order to attack El Salvador and Nicaragua.

Meanwhile, the guerrillas dynamited two high-tension towers in Chalatenango, leaving the department without electricity for several hours. The Army admitted that it sustained five casualties in clashes with guerrilla forces in San Esteban Catarina, San Vicente.

It has been reported from San Salvador that the electoral campaign being carried out by eight presidential candidates as a prelude to the elections on Sunday officially ended early this morning.

The Salvadoran revolutionary forces reiterated their rejection of the electoral farce and stated that the elections proposed by the regime will not provide appropriate solutions for the political, military, and economic crisis that the country is facing.

SALVADORAN ELECTIONS TERMED 'DECEPTIVE MANEUVER'

FL222026 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] Next Sunday, 25 March, presidential elections will take place in El Salvador. Never in the history of Central America have more immoral elections taken place.

The idea for the election originated in the Oval Office of the White House as an attempt to gain time in the face of a devastating push by the guerrillas. The Salvadoran regime, descredited and virtually incapable of controlling the situation, is resorting to elections in an attempt to get out of difficulty. This is a deceptive maneuver -- a true electoral farce -- which makes fun of gullible segments of public opinion while an escalation of imperialist military intervention in the Salvadoran conflict is being prepared.

For elections to be carried out, it is indispensable that there be democratic guarantees and a basic respect for human rights. None of this is a reality in the El Salvador of today. There is no democracy there because the opposition -- made up of the majority of the people -- will not be allowed to go to the polls because mass state terrorism is being carried out and because the rights of the citizens are not respected.

The administrations in Washington and San Salvador have systematically refused to have serious contacts with the guerrillas and to seek a peaceful solution to the crisis. Nevertheless, the patriots of the FMLN and FDR have made many proposals seeking an honorable and peaceful end to the war that is bleeding the country.

Through last year, more than 40,000 people had been murdered by the regime's repressive forces, for whom bombing a town was the same as shooting a child in the back as he was walking to school. A government which perpetrates all kinds of crimes, tortures, and physical abuses, which encourages murders by paramilitary squads, and which does not take prisoners of war cannot speak of peace or of a democratic solution through elections. A dictatorship that has forced nearly 50 percent of the population to leave their homes and that does not respect the most basic human rights does not have the slightest possibility of reaching an electoral solution to the crisis that is suffocating it.

If we add to this the fact that the choices offered in this farce are nothing less than the pro-imperialist Napoleon Duarte, the criminal Roberto D'Aubuisson, and the corrupt Francisco Jose Guerrero, we can see the sinister intentions involved. Duarte, Ronald Reagan's candidate, has pledged to request and support an armed intervention in El Salvador. Major D'Aubuisson, with whom even the White House cowboy would be embarrassed to be seen in public, leads death squads and favors continued killing. Guerrero is an ambitious person who has taken many scraps of Washington's economic and military aid and is not willing to yield to the democratic opposition.

These three options, plus war and the threat of intervention are the cards that the United States holds in the current Salvadoran situation. The United States forgets that despite the $260 million in military aid it has given the regime and the $120 million it is now trying to give it, the Salvadoran Government will not be able to resist the rebel onslaught. In the past 2 years, the guerrillas carried out 2,017 actions against the regime's forces, inflicting 10,287 casualties -- dead and wounded -- on the military and capturing 1,468 prisoners. During these actions, the rebels took 3,744 weapons from the enemy and with them gained much strength. The guerrillas have currently undertaken a new and ambitious offensive known as: "No to the Electoral Farce, Yes to the Popular War."

In a recent action -- the taking of two [as heard] radio stations -- the rebels announced a communique summarizing the position of the revolutionary people regarding the new electoral farce. The document, read over the radio, said: The war will continue during and after the elections, whatever the results. The rebel option is the only one that is valid for the solution of the Salvadoran crisis: the formation of a government of broad popular participation. The nonacceptance of this option will lead to the intensification of the war until the total victory of the people is achieved.

FDR'S UNGO ON SALVADORAN TERRORISM, U.S. POLICY

FL222046 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1907 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] FDR leader Guillermo Ungo has condemned the terrorism practised in El Salvador by the regime in power, and the policy of Washington, which encourages the commission of those crimes. In an interview for the Austrian magazine ARBEITER-ZEITUNG, Ungo stressed the fact that the U.S. administration places its faith in military power. For this reason, it sends great resources to the Salvadoran Government and contributes to the electoral farce in that nation in order to still U.S. public protests and present a facade of democratization in El Salvador. In conclusion, Guillermo Ungo says in the interview with the Austrian publication that without U.S. aid the government would already have fallen.

SALVADORAN GUERRILLAS OCCUPY RADIO STATIONS

FL221248 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Salvadoran guerrillas have occupied three San Salvador radio stations and broadcast a communique confirming their purpose of forming a government of broad participation by the people. The document reiterated that the elections planned for next Sunday will not solve the Salvadoran problems. It said that the elections are not a solution for the Salvadoran people and such a farce is only being carried out to help President Ronald Reagan's reelection campaign.

Continue New Offensive

FL221408 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] FMLN combatants have dynamited two high voltage towers, considerably affecting electric service to the northern Department of Chalatenango. This is the ninth time this year that Chalatenango, one of the more important Salvadoran departments with more than 30,000 inhabitants, has been left without electricity for periods of several hours.

Meanwhile, military sources acknowledged that its forces had suffered more than five casualties during a recent battle in the locality of San Esteban Catarina in San Vincente, 58 km east of the capital. Likewise, the town of Jucuapa was seized by the insurgents following fierce fighting against the government troops.

The FMLN actions are part of the campaign "No to the Electoral Farce; Yes to the Popular War."

GUATEMALAN LABOR LEADER RELEASED, DEPARTS

FL221438 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1310 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Guatemalan Government sources have reported that Alvaro Sosa Ramos, the Guatemalan labor leader, left yesterday for Canada under the protection of the Belgium and Venezuelan ambassadors to Guatemala. Sosa Ramos was taken to Aurora International Airport from a private hospital, where he had been recuperating from wounds he received in an attempted kidnapping by eight masked men on 13 March, 1984. The link between the kidnappers and paramilitary forces was established when the Belgium Embassy, where Sosa Ramos hid, was surrounded by agents of the National Police Special Operations Brigade, who were trying to recapture him.

The Guatemalan Foreign Ministry decided to grant Sosa Ramos permission to leave the country after numerous Latin American labor union organizations protested for 1 hour over the incident.

WORKERS STRIKE PROTESTS PERUVIAN ECONOMIC POLICY

Strike Confirmed

PA221302 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] The Single National Struggle Command of Peru has ratified its decision to carry out a national strike tomorrow, Thursday, against the government's economic policy, even though a new economy minister has been sworn in.

The Single National Struggle Command is composed of the Confederation of Peruvian Workers, the principal workers' central in Peru [words indistinct] union and peasant organizations, which confirmed the call after a meeting to review the ministry changes.

Those who participated in the meeting said the appointment of Jose Benavides to the Peruvian economy ministry, replacing Carlos Rodriguez Pastor, [words indistinct] to satisfy the national demand for fundamental changes in the government's economic policy. The workers also expressed their skepticism for the announcements made by the government in this regard.

The Peruvian Government last night suspended constitutional guarantees for 72 hours, on the eve of the national strike convoked for tomorrow by the four Peruvian workers' unions.

Strike Begins; Police React

PA222201 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] A 24-hour national strike began today in Peru to protest the government's economic policy. According to news reports, the capital city of Lima awoke today to an impressive police display, and streets leading to the outskirts of the city are blocked. Radio and television stations are broadcasting official appeals to the population, urging them to go to work, giving them a 2-hour deadline to do so, and promising $1 to each worker who complies with this demand. The strike was called by the Single National Struggle Command, which is composed of a broad group of labor and peasant organizations backed by opposition forces.

The government has reiterated that it will rigorously repress any violation of the decree that suspends guarantees for 72 hours, which went into effect yesterday.

In lower class neighborhoods, however, several protest demonstrations have been announced and should occur within the next few hours.

Tension in Peru has intensified following a wave of terrorist actions in Lima and various places in the interior. These actions have been attributed to the armed group Shining Path. Two policemen and two civilians were injured in the incidents.

URUGUAY'S SEREGNI CALL TO TV STATION CITED

FL221740 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1310 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] The people's general, Liber Seregni, sent a warm, fraternal, and strong embrace to the Cuban people this morning during a telephone conversation with the Tele-Rebelde television station.

Seregni, leader of the Uruguayan Broad Front -- imprisoned nearly 10 years in Uruguay -- said in an emotion-filled voice that the repercussions owing to his release from jail have been truly tremendous. He added that these repercussions have affected the military regime presently governing the country, and that he also highly values the international solidarity expressed throughout his imprisonment and on his release from jail.

Seregni does not believe his release was the beginning of a general trend toward amnesty for other political prisoners, but does feel his release was due to policies -- a political act of utmost current importance to Uruguay.

During his telephone conversation with Cuba's Revista de la Manana program [Morning Magazine], Liber Seregni said the only information he had about his prison companions had come through his family, and that Raul Sendic, secretary general of the Tupamaros National Liberation Movement [Movimiento de Liberacion Tupamaros], who has been imprisoned for several years, was not well but his resolve was firm and he was in good spirits.

Liber Seregni explained that since his release he has been in contact with all opposition political party leaders. In conversations with them, he has stressed theneed for agreement on the main objective, unity, in the struggle for freedom and democracy.

Seregni closed the conversation with the words: For always [hasta siempre], and in an emotion-filled voice sent a warm, fraternal, and strong embrace to the Cuban people.

BRAZIL

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT SUBMITTED TO FIGUEIREDO

PY221216 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 22 Mar 84

[By Carlos Rodriguez]

[Excerpt] Presidential Spokesman Carlos Atila last night stated that President Figueiredo already has in his hands a new constitutional amendment proposing holding direct presidential elections in 1988.

Carlos Atila said that the proposal encompasses a series of ideas discussed by PDS [Social Democratic Party] cabinet members and leaders. However, Atila did not confirm whether the proposed amendment will be submitted to Congress on 31 March, when the president is scheduled to address the nation.

ECUADOR

GOVERNMENT MINISTER COMMENTS ON STRIKE INCIDENTS

PA221645 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] Government Minister Vladimiro Alvarez Grau has commented on the situation in the Provinces of Esmeraldas and Napo-Pastaza. He said that it is important to find solutions to the country's various problems and that this should be done without promoting provincial strikes that affect society.

[Begin recording] [Alvarez] We are trying to find solutions in a coherent way and with great responsibility. We are finding solutions and, believe me, there will be solutions. We have to appeal to common sense in order to avoid strikes in provinces or in any sector of the country, because this harms the country.

[Unidentified reporter] When will a solution be found?

[Alvarez] We are working on this 24 hours a day. The solutions will emerge from the alternatives we are studying. It is obvious that when the interests of the Ecuadoran people are at stake, solutions cannot be hurried. To find solutions, both sides must have an open mind and realize the needs of those people who want to work. [end recording]

BRIEFS

CEPE PURCHASES FUEL FROM PEMEX -- It has been officially reported that the Ecuadoran State Petroleum Corporation, CEPE, will purchase 150,000 barrels of gasoline and 60,000 barrels of diesel monthly from Mexican Petroleum, PEMEX. This step will be taken because national fuel production has proven insufficient for domestic needs. [Summary] [Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 16 Mar 84 PA]